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HUMANS
OF PARKLAND
Jody Littleton



Photo provided by Jody Littleton

Emma Gray
Editor

Though she is always traveling and seeking new things, Jody Littleton has stayed at Parkland since she first started working here in 1997. However, this has not kept her from pursuing her passion for travel however, with travel even being part of her job.

"I have three hats," Littleton says. "I am the study abroad coordinator, I am the presentation center coordinator, and I teach."

She got the job as

SEE HUMANS PAGE 3

Parkland event aimed at educating students about degree completion

David Saveanu
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Parkland will be holding its Degree Completion Day, hoping to educate students on the process of finishing their degrees with Parkland and what comes after.

Parkland College wanted to bring more attention to degree completion, and help students graduate. It will be hosted by Parkland Credentials Analysts Dennis Kaczor and Beth Chepan, and the rest of Student Services.

Student Services coordinated the event to help students better understand the process of graduation, and help solve a lot of misconceptions students have regarding degree completion.

"A lot of kids think that they graduate automatically," Kaczor said, which is problematic since some Parkland students do not correctly follow protocol and are left without degrees.

Many students often "wonder where their degree is," explained Kaczor, and it's because "they never petitioned to graduate."

Students go on advertising that they have a degree on college applications, job applications, and resumes, when in actuality they do not have a degree. A lot of students will have invested their time into a degree, but because of a lack of information on the subject, they fail to petition for their degree.

Students often contact Parkland because "they have all the course work" for the degrees they invested time into, but never received their degrees.

Kaczor wanted to change this, saying "we want to teach students to find out how close they are."

He organized the event to provide all students a better understanding on petitioning for degrees, and what the transfer process looks like. This will include

information on the Illinois Articulation Initiative and different schools that participate with Illinois to make the transfer process easier.

At the event there will be counselors present, to help guide the students one-on-one; along with this the WPCD 88.7 FM will be live streaming and providing participants in the event with giveaways and refreshments.

Kaczor wanted to make it "an event to gather kids to the table so they can learn various things," he believes through this "students are reminded 'why am I here?'"

"Not enough finish, not enough to make me happy," Kaczor said. "I would like to see them all graduate."

He goes on to elaborate upon the importance of learning this information early.

"I like the idea that students from the first semester they're here, seeing an event like this and realizing there is a reason that they're here," he said. "We want to teach students to find



Photo by David Saveanu | Prospectus News
Student Services employees Abbi Nowak and Melissa Rodriguez in front of the Degree Completion Day display case in the X-wing.

out how close they are" through learning how to use Web Advisor.

Kaczor then gave an example of a common mistake students who are uninformed on the subject make. He said typically a four-year institution will place students at junior or third-year status but, often because students aren't accustomed with Web Advisor, many will be under the necessary credit hours to move forward. Because of this, students are forced to take a few additional credit hours, due to a lack of the necessary general education hours.

Through the event, Kaczor and Chepan hope to bring light to the issue, inform students on the resources available to them, and educate Parkland students on beneficial information regarding degree completion.

For more information, you can attend the Degree Completion Day in the Student Union (U-wing) on Feb. 22, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., or can contact Kaczor or Chepan directly at admissions@parkland.edu.

SciCommons a bridge between students and faculty

EvyJo Compton
Staff Writer

Parkland's natural sciences department has created an area for students to study and ask professors questions, stationed in the commons of the natural sciences wing, referred to as the SciCommons.

This area is designed to help students reach out to professors for help with homework or studying for quizzes and tests. And, it is not only for natural sciences students. All students are welcome to study in the area.

"This is an area in which many of our faculty have volunteered to hold their office hours to help students," says

Scott Siechen, head of the natural science department. "It is wide open and comfortable. It's just outside of many biology labs and right in front of some of the faculty offices."

The area is set up for students to ask professors specific questions they have, however, students can only ask about their grades or syllabus information if they're speaking with one of their own instructors.

"Students can ask any of the professors questions about their homework or study help," says David Wilson, a chemistry and biology instructor. "They cannot ask about grades, as we professors do not have access to each

other's information. We also stray away from answering any syllabus-type questions, as every professor has their own way of doing things. It is best to ask your individual professor."

Students can ask any of the faculty stationed at the area questions about anything science-related, though each faculty member has different sets of expertise.

"Students can ask any of the professors about their homework, even if it isn't in the instructors' subject area," Mindy Tidrick, a part-time chemistry and geology professor says. "Professors will gladly help anyone as long as they are able."

There are many amenities that the

commons offers to students. Not only can they ask questions, but they can study, do homework or even relax. There is a couch, chairs, and several tables located in the area.

"There are tables here for studying," Wilson states. "A professor will be sitting here at the desk, whom students can approach and ask questions. There is a chalk board available for use. There is a computer stationed with the professor."

The area has textbooks available for use as well.

"We have the majority of textbooks from current natural science classes in the common's cabinet for instructor use," Tidrick

says. "If students have a general question, we can use the texts to help guide them in solving their own question or to find example problems similar to what they are studying. We can also use the textbooks to help find extra study questions for practice."

The natural science commons is not meant to take away from the D-wing's Center for Academic Success. Students are encouraged to go to C.A.S. as well as the natural science commons for help.

"The Natural Sciences Commons is meant to be a way for students to talk to their professors," says Siechen. "We do not want to take away from

SEE COMMONS PAGE 4

HISTORY

Medieval documents displayed at Krannert

Greg Gancarz
Staff Writer

Visitors to the University of Illinois Krannert Art Museum over the past several weeks have likely passed through its most recent exhibition “Making and Breaking Medieval Manuscripts,” located in the West Gallery, focused on handwritten or printed texts from the 13th-16th centuries.

The items on display included hand drawn text and illustrations, such as royal family bloodlines, regional maps, and even scores of renaissance music. Each piece of artwork tells a different story about itself and its owners throughout the ages.

For an even more in-depth examination of the texts, specifically medieval charters and legal documents, the museum hosted Carol Symes to speak on the evening of Feb. 9, the last event of the exhibit. Symes, an associate professor of history, global studies, and medieval studies at the University of Illinois, has already written several books on her specialty and is in the process of working on yet another one.

Held in the Krannert Art Museum Auditorium, the talk titled “Cherishing Charters in Medieval England: Archives of Passion, Aspiration, Longing, and Loss,” delved into an examination of these near-ancient texts, describing the importance these legal documents had for medieval



Photo by Greg Gancarz | The Prospectus

This book from England, ca. 1400, is rare in that it still contains the subtle ways book makers would mark out lines and basic designs for each page, details that would usually be painted over in the final product.

citizens and explaining how even the littlest marks and details could shed light on where a piece of parchment had been on its long journey.

Often times, the legal records, contracts, and other records discussed by Symes survived by little more than mere chance. Unfortunately for medievalists like herself, books and records used on a daily basis in that time period rarely survive to be

studied by today’s scholars.

Only the rare items usually stand the test of time, with legal documents often being among them, due to their importance in proving land ownership in the medieval world. They were similar to today’s legal documents, except there was usually only one copy for each party, so losing it was not something to be taken lightly.

Some of the most revealing stories

came directly from the text of the last wills themselves. These centuries-old tomes offered a glimpse into the personalities and intimate lives of the everyday people of the past.

On one will, entirely written in Latin, Symes pointed out a curious annotation on the bottom—the only English on the entire piece. Seeing as how English was not considered a legal language for documents at the time, Symes proposed the text, which was an edit to the previously written will, was likely a last minute change made by a man on his deathbed. With no time to hire and find a scribe to make an addendum in proper Latin, the head of the household wrote in his last wishes in the only language he knew.

Stories like these litter the parchments and papers that Symes pours over for her work every day, each piece providing insight and intrigue into lives long since passed.

In Symes own words: “handwriting really is the work of the hand, and we can just learn so much by taking that seriously.”

On Feb. 13, the pieces on display in the west wing of the Krannert Gallery were once again packed up and put into the archives, much like they once were for preservation many centuries ago. Most of the incredible craftsmanship and artwork will not go far however, with most of it residing at the University of Illinois’ Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Medieval marvels: a peek into Ireland’s past

Destiny Norris
Staff Writer

Beginning last September, the Spurlock Museum opened an exhibit containing modern reproductions of medieval relics, jewelry, and illuminated manuscripts.

The pieces that make up the exhibit are replicas, mostly produced by a technique of copying called electrotyping.

“It’s the process of change into the modern period,” says Professor Charles D. Wright, guest curator of the exhibit.

Wright’s exhibit introduces the work of Edmond Johnson, an Irish jewelry maker. Johnson began restoring and duplicating a small number of medieval Irish pieces in his personal jewelry shop for the British exhibit in the World Fair in 1893.

Johnson, a descendant of a family of goldsmiths dating back to the 18th century, explored nationalist themes in Irish jewelry for the World Fair even though Ireland had not yet become a free state from Great Britain.

Wright came upon the Johnson replicas in the archives at the University of Illinois when teaching courses on old English and old Irish literature. The replicas originally came to the University of Illinois in 1915 thanks to faculty member Gertrude Schoepperle. An avid supporter of Irish culture, the professor had put forth effort to obtain the copies made by Johnson in order to further Irish studies at the University.

“The first shipment ordered was being brought over on a British tanker,” Wright said, “but it was shot down by a German U-boat and is still at the bottom of the ocean.”

Wright thought the timing of the exhibit, which will continue to be open on the centennial of the Easter Rising, an important event in the history of Ireland’s independence, was important to the integrity and significance of the exhibit as well.

In accordance with the historical event of the Easter Rising, many of the pieces in the exhibit are symbols themselves of the Irish nationalist

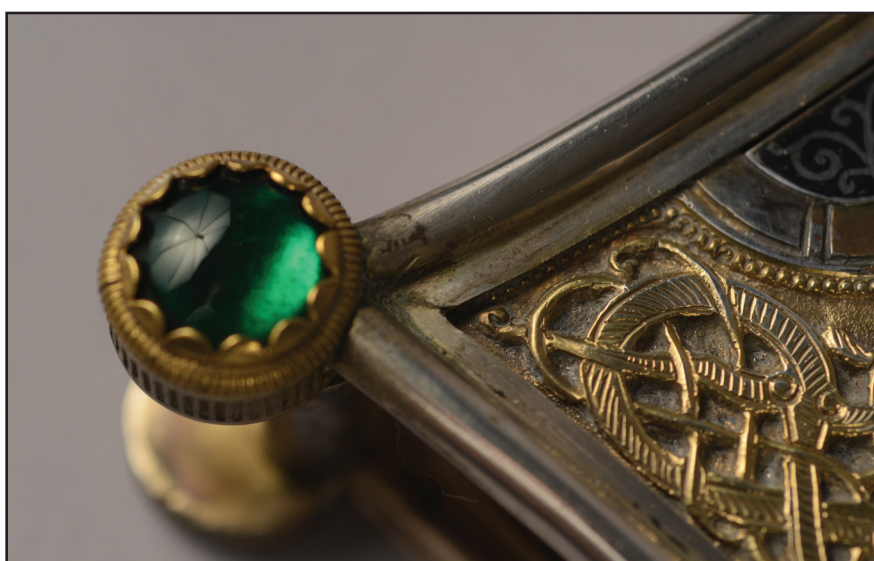


Photo provided by the Spurlock Museum website

Close-up image of the electrotype of the Cross of Cong, a Celtic religious reliquary of incredible detail, dating back to A.D. 1123.



Photo provided by the Spurlock Museum website

An electrotype copy of the Tara Brooch, a pin surrounded by Irish legend with the original dating back to 8th century Ireland.

movement. Wright says “many of the pieces are charged with nationalism.”

The exhibit contains numerous replicas of brooches, which have been used in Ireland since the Bronze Age to show the social standing and rank of an individual, and were worn by men and women alike.

The Daughters of Ireland, a nationalist group that fought for Irish heritage, independence, and women’s roles in the country, enlisted Edmond

Johnson to create replicas of the Tara brooch, a pin renowned through Irish legend, as their membership badges. Even today, Irish brooches carry the cause and history of nationalism and loyalty to Ireland’s independence.

Wright says the purpose of the exhibit is to not only show off the replicas, but to inform the viewer of the changes in techniques used to make replicas—techniques that surfaced due to modern innovations

and electrical science.

“[I wanted the viewer to] explore techniques of reproduction as their own cultural phenomenon,” Wright says. “I wanted people to see the incredible sophistication of Irish art and literature, and that they are still important and relevant emblems of Irish identity and nationality.”

The exhibit was made possible by professors from around the country, as well as from the National University of Ireland, staff at the Spurlock, the Consul General of Ireland, and Parkland’s very own Vice President for Institutional Advancement Seamus O’Reilly.

Denise Seif, an art history and jewelry and metal working professor at Parkland, took both levels of her jewelry and metal working class to see the exhibit.

“Two of my colleagues, Chris Berti and Lisa Costello, had the opportunity to go to Morocco last year to experience the culture and then they were to create assignments for their students at Parkland based on some of the things they learned on the trip,” Seif says. “I could see that the students were really inspired by the enthusiasm of Chris and Lisa and how they were exposed to different ways of looking and thinking about making art. I saw this exhibit at the Spurlock as an opportunity for my students to have that similar kind of experience.”

Like Wright, Seif wanted her students to know the significance of the exhibit and the processes used to create the original pieces, and how that’s reflected in the replicas.

“By going to the exhibit and having [Wright] talk about the work and the reasons for putting together the exhibition my students now have a better understanding of the political, religious, and cultural significance of the [items] that are in the exhibition,” Seif says.

Seif says that she also hopes the visit will help her students share with others the immense amount of resources that the Spurlock has to offer the community.

Open since September, the exhibit is scheduled to close on April 2.

POLITICS

Gun industry seeks to ease gov't restrictions on silencers

Lisa Marie Pane
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — They are the stuff of legend, wielded by hit men and by James Bond. For decades, buying a silencer for a firearm has been as difficult as buying a machine gun, requiring a background check that can take close to a year.

Now, emboldened by the election of Donald Trump as president, the industry has renewed a push in Congress to ease those restrictions, arguing that it'll help preserve the hearing of gun users.

"We look at this as a Second Amendment issue. We look at it as a health issue," said Erich Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America. "The decibel level of a fired gun, even the lowly .22-caliber, can cause hearing damage."

Since the 1930s silencers have been regulated under the National Firearms Act, facing the same paperwork, \$200 tax and background checks required to buy a machine gun.

A background check to buy most firearms must be completed within three days, or the sale automatically goes through. But the process for a silencer and weapons regulated under the NFA can take eight months or more. Each silencer carries a serial number that can be tracked. Eight states outlaw the sale or possession of silencers.

Despite the barriers, silencers have gained in popularity. In 2008, when West Valley City, Utah, based SilencerCo was formed, about 18,000 silencers were being sold each year by the entire industry. These days the company, which has 70 percent of the market, sells that many each month.

One of its founders, CEO Josh Waldron, said he suffers hearing loss and still deals with a ringing in his ears from when he went hunting for mule deer as a teen with his father's .243 rifle.

Waldron and other advocates say one of the biggest benefits is for hunters who need to be able to hear

what's around them and detect the movements of prey — something made more difficult if they're wearing ear protection.

"You need your senses when you're hunting," Waldron said while attending this year's gun industry SHOT Show convention in Las Vegas. "What this is doing is taking the hearing protection that one would wear off your head and putting it on your gun."

Silencers, more technically called suppressors and nicknamed "cans," were invented in the early 1900s by MIT-educated Hiram Percy Maxim, who also invented a muffler for gasoline engines. They were brought under NFA regulations after Depression-era game wardens were concerned hunters would use them to poach.

Advocates say it's misleading to call them silencers because they don't mute the noise a gunshot makes so much as muffle it. They cringe at the images fed by Hollywood that show them as a tool of assassins and others looking to kill people without detection.

"It's only in the movies where you put on a suppressor — or as they call them in the movies, a silencer — and all you hear is 'pfff'. That's not real life," Pratt said.

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, a Republican from South Carolina, is a sponsor of the "Hearing Protection Act," the latest attempt to pass such legislation. It's previously been met with resistance, especially under President Barack Obama and among Democratic lawmakers who view it as a gun-promotion issue.

It doesn't hurt now that Trump's son Donald met with SilencerCo and was videoed trying out their products.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," Duncan said. "Don Junior, who is an avid hunter himself, has come out in favor of this particular legislation. And so he gets it. That gives us a little bit of juice within the White House and the executive branch. And hopefully we can tap that energy and have it transfer over to the legislative



Photo by Lisa Marie Pane | AP Photo

In this photo taken Jan. 17, 2017, Josh Waldron, co-founder and CEO of SilencerCo, holds one of his company's Maxim 9 products, holds a 9mm handgun, in Las Vegas, in which the suppressor is embedded into the barrel. They are the stuff of legend, wielded by hit men and by James Bond. For decades, buying a silencer for a firearm has been as difficult as buying a machine gun, requiring a background check that can take close to a year. Now, emboldened by the election of Donald Trump as president, the industry has renewed a push in Congress to ease those restrictions, arguing that it'll help preserve the hearing of gun users.

branch."

Suppressors generally lower the sound level by 20 to 35 decibels, leaving most guns still louder than your average ambulance siren.

Critics say efforts to ease the restrictions will allow more criminals to use them and will make it difficult to detect when and where a shooting is taking place. There aren't many cases to point to in which a silencer was used during a crime. Gun-control advocates say that shows that tightly regulating them is working, while the gun industry says it's more an indication that criminals aren't apt to use them even if restrictions are eased.

Lindsay Nichols, senior attorney with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, scoffs at the idea that making it easier to buy a suppressor is motivated by protecting someone's hearing.

"They're not about protecting people's ears. In fact a good pair of ear plugs and ear muffs work just as well as a silencer — and they don't pose a risk that a criminal is going to use them in a violent crime," she said, adding: "This is clearly something that I think that a lot of people can see through. They can see this is really about profits for the gun industry."

Ed Turner, a former police officer and the owner of Ed's Public Safety, a gun shop in Stockbridge, Georgia, said he's scaled back the number of silencers he carries because of the hassle of buying one.

"To say that it's going to enhance a criminal element, I think that's kind of ludicrous," Turner said. "Criminals don't abide by laws anyway... They're getting them off the street. They're stolen."

FROM PAGE 1

HUMANS

study abroad coordinator after the old coordinator retired.

"I begged and pleaded and applied for her job," Littleton said.

The job has allowed her to do a lot of traveling, something she loves.

"I spent a whole semester in Ireland," Littleton states. "I've also spent a lot of time in France."

Littleton is an avid traveller outside of her duties as Parkland's study abroad coordinator as well.

"I've been to Spain, been to the Netherlands...I've been to Great Britain," Littleton said. "I've been to Italy twice—I loved Italy. I've been to Switzerland. I have been to Austria very briefly, just for a day...I've been to Germany...I've been into Belgium too. I've been to Mexico, too."

The reason Littleton loves to travel



Photo provided by Jody Littleton

so much is because she loves new things, which is one reason she always tries to go somewhere new.

"I tend not to go back to the same places," Littleton explains. "I guess I'm a little bit of a thrill seeker...I love history and art [and] I am also a big

nature person."

This love of new things has lead Littleton to pursue numerous hobbies outside of her travels.

"My husband and I are going backpacking this summer," Littleton says. "We are going to go out to

Colorado."

Exercise is something that Littleton enjoys a lot. She went white water rafting in college and continues to exercise whenever she can.

"I play tennis," Littleton says. "[And] I'm running the half marathon for the Illinois marathon this spring."

One of Littleton's other hobbies is making bowls out of glass through a method called fusing and slumping.

"Right now, I am going to a place called Cracked Glass and I make little glass projects," Littleton says.

Another thing Littleton does is massage therapy, for which she got a license through Parkland in 2012.

"I am a massage therapist licensed through Parkland," Littleton says. "I do massage therapy out of my house. Just a couple people a week...It's something completely different that I do during the day."

Littleton says she is always looking for new places to visit and new experiences.

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National Anthropology Day

Thursday, February 16th
12pm in the Student Union

- Learn about classes and student research opportunities from Parkland anthropology students.
- Talk to faculty about careers in archaeology, forensic anthropology, and cultural anthropology.
- Come see our fossil casts and artifact collection!

Parkland College students working at Collier Anthropology Complex

Sponsored by the Division of Arts and Sciences and the American Anthropological Association.

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Fact or Fiction

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Answer on page 6

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ENTERTAINMENT

In emotional speech, Streep renews harsh criticism of Trump

Jocelyn Noveck
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In an emotional speech by turns tearful, defiant and humorous, Meryl Streep doubled down on her harsh criticism of President Donald Trump, and spoke of having become a target since she first took him on in her Golden Globes speech in January.

Addressing a cheering audience at a fundraising gala for the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT group, Streep referred to Trump's tweet after her Globes speech, in which he called the celebrated actress "overrated."

"Yes, I am the most overrated, over-decorated and currently, I am the most over-berated actress ... of my generation," she said to laughs.

She noted that she wished she could simply stay home "and load the dishwasher" rather than take a podium to speak out — but that "the weight of all these honors" she's received in her career compelled her to speak out.

"It's terrifying to put the target on your forehead,"

she said. "And it sets you up for all sorts of attacks and armies of brownshirts and bots and worse, and the only way you can do it is if you feel you have to. You have to! You don't have an option. You have to."

Streep did not elaborate on the type of attacks she may have been subjected to since her Globes speech, or from whom. The Associated Press reached out to her publicist for details. The term "brownshirts" was first used to describe an early Nazi militia.

Streep was receiving the group's National Ally for Equality Award, and was the huge draw of the evening. Introduced by filmmaker Ken Burns, she took the stage to a thunderous ovation. After a humorous defense of her remarks in her Globes speech that football and martial arts weren't arts, which had drawn some criticism — she clarified that she indeed likes football, too — the actress praised the organization for defending LGBT rights, and spoke about two teachers — one transgender, one gay — who had influenced her childhood in suburban New

Jersey.

She then spoke about how early cultures had always put men at the top, but at some point in the 20th century, women, people of color and other minorities began achieving their deserved rights. Progress was fast, and so now, "We shouldn't be surprised that fundamentalists, of all stripes, everywhere, are ... fuming," she said.

Turning to Trump, she said: "But if we live through this precarious moment — if his catastrophic instinct to retaliate doesn't lead us to nuclear winter — we will have much to thank this president for. Because he will have woken us up to how fragile freedom really is."

The country has now learned, she said, "how the authority of the executive, in the hands of a self-dealer, can be wielded against the people, and the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The whip of the executive can,



Photo by Christopher Smith | Invision/AP

Meryl Streep attends the Human Rights Campaign Greater New York Gala at Waldorf Astoria Hotel on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017, in New York.

through a Twitter feed, lash and intimidate, punish and humiliate, delegitimize the press and all of the imagined enemies with spasmodic regularity and easily provoked predictability."

At the end, Streep made a passionate call for religious liberty — the right, as she said, "to live our lives with God or without Her."

"All of us have the human

right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," she said.

"If you think people were mad," she closed, "when they thought the government was coming after their guns, wait until you see when they try to take away our happiness."

Streep, 67, received a record 20th Oscar nomination in January.

FROM PAGE 1

COMMONS

C.A.S. There is peer tutoring over there, but not in the Natural Science Commons."

"C.A.S. is on the other side of campus, whereas the SciCommons is close to the offices. C.A.S. is mostly peer tutoring about several different subjects; here in the Commons, it is supposed to be Natural Science...all students should go to C.A.S. as well as the commons to get as much help as they need," Wilson says.

The commons has professors stationed at a desk, waiting to answer questions. These faculty members have volunteered their office hours to help with the commons.

"There is a schedule posted at the desk and on the bulletin board," Siechen states. "The Parkland faculty are here to help the students."

Tidrick explains: "There is an updated calendar online... with monthly, weekly and agenda views in which students can click on the faculty's name to see their expertise and/or Parkland courses taught. At some point in the future, it can be embedded into Cobra. Even when students are off-campus, they can check to see who is available."

Students do not have to interact with the faculty. Even if they are not in the natural sciences department, they can go to the commons and study.

"You can do your studying in there," Siechen says. "We also want students to use it to study, not just to ask professors questions and leave. We also encourage study groups to come, especially when they can study together in an area, and then always be able to go and ask questions if needed."

The commons is a running idea; this is the first semester that it has been set up, and the faculty hope it will continue.

"Someday we may move it," Tidrick says. "It currently is in an area where study groups have met before. We are hoping that if it does catch on, that the SciCommons can be moved where it is more open and even more accessible for students. We are always welcoming student input and suggestions to further develop the commons."

The commons is more than just a study area. It is a bridge between students and faculty.

"There was some research done that showed students will go to office hours in another spot other than their professor's office. There is something about being in an office that is intimidating to

students," Siechen says. "We hope the commons will take away this barrier."

The moving of professors' office hours out of an office and into the open was intentionally done to make them more accessible to students in a more comfortable environment.

"I hope this can break down barriers between students and instructors," Tidrick says.

"When students feel intimidated, they do not seek out help. We want to change that perception and help students know we are here for them and want to help."

TheSciCommons is a place for students to reach out for help. Parkland College faculty is always open to helping students.

"I hope this will get students to seek out help," Wilson states, "We hope to make this an open, welcoming environment for instructor to



Photo by Emma Gray | Prospectus News

Veterinary technology students Carli Burris (left) and Emma Fortney (right) study in the SciCommons on Feb. 13.



Photo by EvyJo Compton | Prospectus News

David Leake helps Mary Hunter with some of her chemistry homework problems.

student interaction." Siechen adds, "I hope...that the lesson that is taken away is that Parkland faculty are here to help."

Commons is located in the L-wing by offices, L132-134. There are posters around the college with more information.

The Natural Sciences

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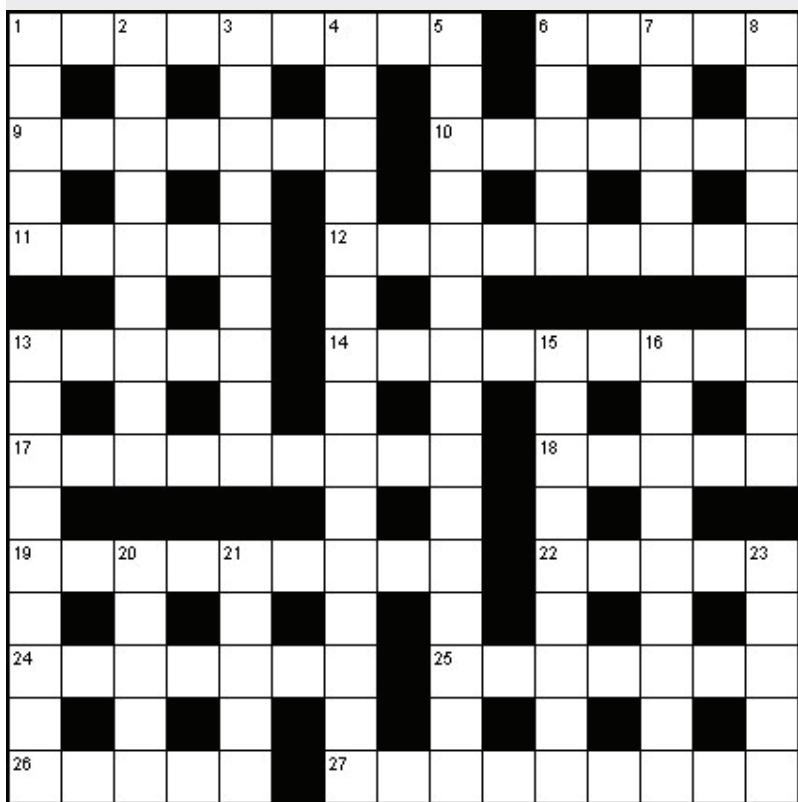


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All unused issues of The Prospectus are donated to the Parkland College Veterinary Technology program or the Champaign County Humane Society.

CROSSWORD & COMICS

Crossword (solve for the answers below)



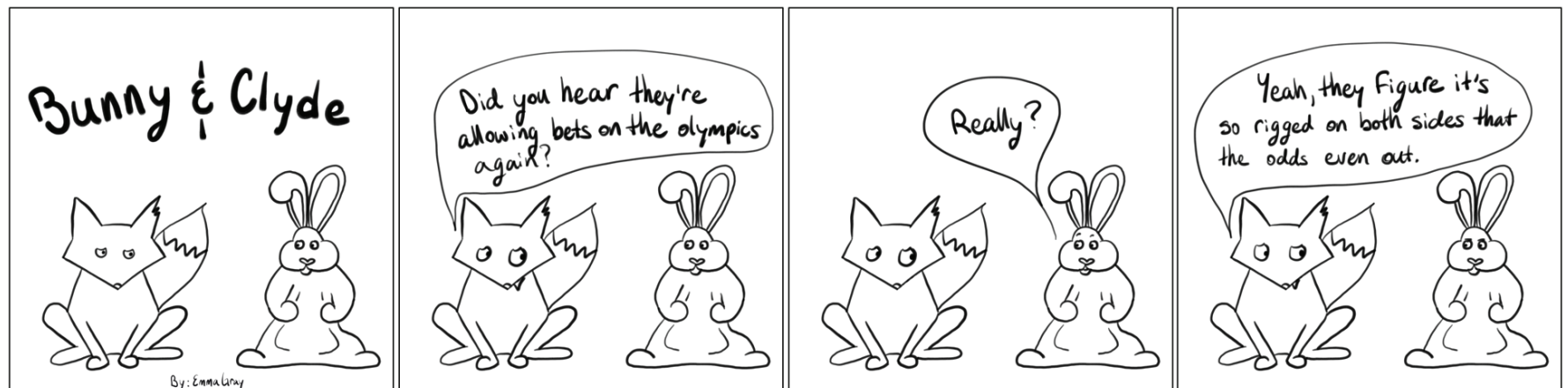
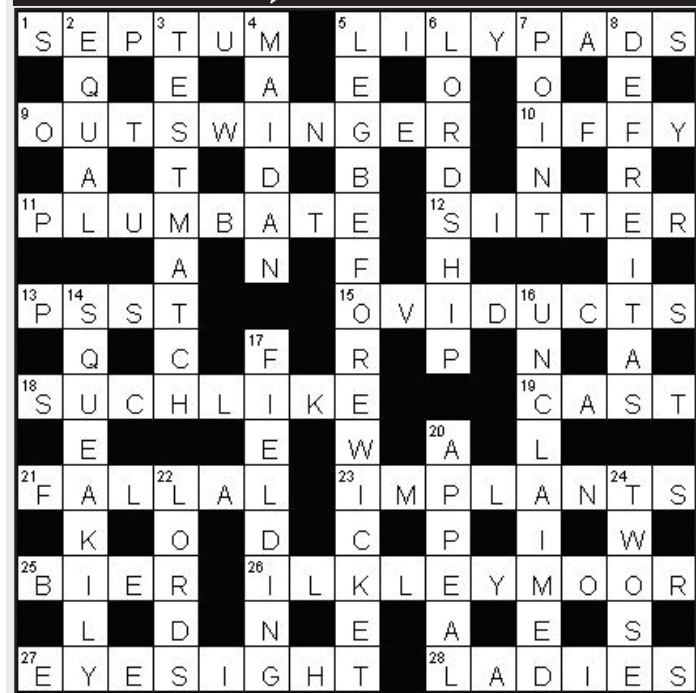
ACROSS

- 1 Division of zillah obtained by a private in the artillery, say (9)
- 6 A.C. cries: This is rich soy sauce that's been fermented (5)
- 9 Extract energy from element (not boron) and it becomes another (7)
- 10 Provide food for topless nymphs in American state (7)
- 11 Harsh Athenian lawgiver displayed zero wit, on reflection (5)
- 12 After time, to study English philosopher is drudgery (9)
- 13 Charles leaves Chablis, eating hot pancake (5)
- 14 In conversation, you see, gin needs to be imbibed to get conversational wit (9)
- 17 Spontaneous combustion started after car backed on to motorway (9)
- 18 Musically above Joan Sutherland, for example? No, no (5)
- 19 Combining power of 2, wrongly applied to cobalt, has conceivable result (9)
- 22 Can be eaten by fish swimming back across river (5)
- 24 Call in question a statement by girl declaring herself attractive? (7)
- 25 Swivel musket found wanting in Gallipoli, to some extent (7)
- 26 Fellow uses euphemistic oath to heartless judge (5)
- 27 Van Dyck's first to follow Raphael's revolutionary style, ultimately replacing Latin (9)

DOWN

- 1 Edmund's poised to settle with shillings and pence (5)
- 2 One concerned with matters of the soul – not square or sanctimonious – becomes member of High Church party (9)
- 3 A unicorn, one fabulously belonging to Roman station (9)
- 4 More than one chap stood up woman – a first 'int she needs treatment for worms! (15)
- 5 Former Conservative leader holds answer to each problem: "Depose king and form alliance of cities" (9,6)
- 6 S-substance produced by marine animal (5)
- 7 Palebuck that's reared in island pen (5)
- 8 Midwinter festival mostly observed by a lay gathering (2-5-2)
- 13 High flier has roast lamb take-out? (9)
- 15 One gets in a best bitter, at last, being drunk? Not him (9)
- 16 In conflict, enemy agent lasts out, hiding quietly in tail unit of aircraft (9)
- 20 Flat in Virginia given to sanctimonious Democrat (5)
- 21 Glean a way of separating warp threads (5)
- 23 In America, lured to source of light (5)

Answers from last week



SUDOKU

			8		3	9		
4		9	2	6			3	8
8	3		4	9	1	2		
	6	1		3				
			4			6	1	
		6	3	7	5		8	9
5	9			8	4	1		3
		8	9		2			



Answers from last week

1	2	6	4	8	9	3	5	7
7	5	3	1	6	2	4	8	9
4	9	8	7	5	3	2	1	6
9	3	1	5	4	7	8	6	2
2	8	5	6	9	1	7	4	3
6	7	4	3	2	8	5	9	1
3	1	9	8	7	4	6	2	5
5	4	2	9	3	6	1	7	8
8	6	7	2	1	5	9	3	4

POLITICS

Advocates of disabled students closely watching new ed chief

Carolyn Thompson
Associated Press

Betsy DeVos got off to a rocky start with families of disabled children when she acknowledged being confused by a question at her confirmation hearing about a federal law that has governed special education since 1975.

Now that DeVos is on the job at the U.S. Education Department, advocacy groups say they will be watching closely to see how much the billionaire school choice champion has learned and how her philosophy will affect the more than 6.5 million public school students who need special support in class.

"It's fair to say that there's a high level of anxiety from our members," said Denise Stile Marshall, executive director of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, which opposed DeVos' nomination.

As education secretary, DeVos leads the department charged with enforcing the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. The 42-year-old law entitles children who struggle to learn or have medical or developmental challenges to a "free appropriate public education" aligned with their state's academic standards. It includes services tailored to each child's needs and in the "least restrictive environment" where those needs can be met. To help states meet the excess costs, the federal government supplied \$11.9 billion in funding in 2016.

During her January hearing DeVos exasperated lawmakers and parents when, asked whether schools receiving taxpayer funding



Photo by Molly Riley | AP Photo

In this Feb. 8, 2017 file photo, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos speaks at the Education Department in Washington. The country's new education chief got off to a rocky start with a dogged segment of the school universe, families of disabled children, when she admitted to being confused by a question at her confirmation hearing about a key federal law that has governed special education since 1975.

should be required to comply with IDEA, she replied it was "best left to the states." When asked whether she was aware IDEA is a federal law, she answered, "I may have confused it."

Amid the backlash, DeVos wrote in a letter to Sen. Johnny Isakson of the Senate education committee that she is "committed to enforcing all federal laws and protecting the hard won rights of students with disabilities." Half of the Senate voted against her confirmation, leaving Vice President Mike Pence to cast a tie-breaking vote to give her the job.

Apparent technical issues that blocked public access to an IDEA-related website did

nothing to instill confidence. "It was not taken down and we are working to resolve ASAP," the department tweeted Feb. 8, the day after DeVos was sworn in. As of Monday, traffic was being redirected to a different department site, which included a note saying the department was working to resolve the technical issues.

Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, both Democrats from Washington state who voted against DeVos, wrote to the secretary Friday requesting an explanation and assurances that missing information would be restored.

The department did not immediately respond to a

request for comment Monday.

About 13 percent of the nation's public schoolchildren receive special education services. The largest segment, 35 percent, have a specific learning disability that may disrupt their ability to write, spell or do mathematical calculations. About 21 percent have speech or language impairments and the balance have other health impairments, autism, emotional disturbances, developmental delays or intellectual disabilities, according to federal statistics.

The graduation rate among students with disabilities was 63.1 percent in 2013-14, compared with the national average of 82 percent.

DeVos' letter to Isakson was not enough for some advocacy groups, who also worry about DeVos' support for using public funding for vouchers to cover education at private schools that may not be subject to the rules of the IDEA civil rights law.

"Secretary DeVos has not expressed a strong commitment to public schools or to ensuring that all students, including students with disabilities, receive equal educational opportunities," the American Association of People with Disabilities said in a statement to The Associated Press this week. "To date, she has not said or done anything to alleviate these concerns."

But Ohio parent activist Tera Myers, who attended DeVos' hearing in Washington, D.C., said she is excited about DeVos and that school choice programs like those DeVos supports helped her son with Down syndrome when she became disillusioned with the education he was getting in the public system. Myers' son attended a private school under Ohio's state-funded Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship program, which pays for tuition and services at non-public schools. Accepting the scholarship meant the public district was no longer responsible for providing the free appropriate public education outlined by IDEA, something Myers said she freely accepted.

"For students with disabilities, I really believe even more so, that parents should have the option to choose. I understand that not every parent wants that choice and that's OK, and that's why it's important for there to be a myriad of choices for us."

Judge denies request to halt Dakota Access pipeline work

Sam Hananel
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Monday rejected a request by two American Indian tribes for an emergency order halting construction of the remaining section of the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg, in Washington, D.C., said that as long as the oil isn't flowing through the pipeline, there is no immediate harm to the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Sioux tribes, which are suing to stop the project. But he said he'd consider the arguments more thoroughly at another hearing on Feb. 27.

The tribes requested the temporary injunction last week after Texas-based

Energy Transfer Partners got federal permission to lay pipe under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota. That's the last big section of the \$3.8 billion pipeline that would need to be constructed before it could carry oil from North Dakota to Illinois.

The tribes say the pipeline would endanger their cultural sites and water supply. They added a religious freedom component to their case last week by arguing that clean water is necessary to practice the Sioux religion and that the mere presence of the pipeline renders the water impure.

At the hearing, though, Boasberg said the harm to the tribe apparently would come from the pipeline being turned on and the oil flowing through it, not from the pipeline's mere presence.

Energy Transfer Partners received final approval from the Army last week to lay pipe under the reservoir and to complete the 1,200-mile pipeline, which would move North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois. Drilling work began immediately under Lake Oahe, which is the water source for both tribes.

The company's attorneys filed court documents early Monday urging Boasberg to reject the tribes' request, calling the new religious freedom argument "exceedingly tardy," "not construction-related" and a "last-minute delay tactic."

"Dakota Access has the greatest respect for the religious beliefs and traditions of (tribes). The emergency relief sought here simply is not necessary to protect the

exercise of those beliefs or preserve those traditions," wrote William Scherman, an attorney for the company.

The Corps also filed court documents Monday arguing that a work stoppage isn't warranted, saying the tribes will have plenty of time to make their case before oil flows through the pipeline.

Work under Lake Oahe had been held up in the courts until President Donald Trump last month instructed the Army Corps of Engineers to advance construction. The Army is involved because its engineering branch manages the river and its system of hydroelectric dams, which is owned by the federal government.

The drilling work is expected to take about two months. The full pipeline

system could be operational within three months.

Energy Transfer Partners maintains that the pipeline is safe and disputes that cultural sites have been affected. But an encampment near the construction in southern North Dakota drew thousands of protesters last year in support of the tribes, leading to occasional clashes with law enforcement and nearly 700 arrests. The camp has thinned to fewer than 300 people, but law enforcement officers continue to maintain a presence in the area.

Associated Press writer Blake Nicholson in Bismarck, N.D., contributed to this report.

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Fact or Fiction

FICTION: The fruit of the *T. ferdinandiana* plant, known as the Kakadu plum, can contain up to one hundred times the vitamin C of an orange. Chili peppers, parsley, and broccoli also on average contain more vitamin C than oranges.

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SPORTS

Parkland basketball boasts good seasons so far

Peter Floess
Staff Writer

As the community college basketball season winds down, the women and men's basketball teams have winning records.

Both Men's Basketball Head Coach Anthony Figueroa and Women's Basketball Assistant Coach Bill Dobrik feel that their respective teams are in good shape, but have some room to improve.

"Our overall record is good at this point in the season, though we still have away to go as a team if we want to win our conference/region again and go to the national tournament," says Figueroa.

Dobrik also feels his team is doing well, but says his team needs work on defense going forward.

"At this moment, I feel we are on the right track," says Dobrik. "One thing all of our teams have traditionally done is play their best ball down the stretch and I think we are in a position to do that again this year. I think we have found our offensive identity as a team but hope we can continue to shore things up on defense to really get to where we want to be in order to achieve what we want to."

The team members themselves have similar sentiments.

"I am happy where the

team is standing right now. We are playing well but there is always room to get better," says sophomore point guard on the men's team Terrion Howard.

Sophomore guards Grant Gibson and Cornelius McIntosh agreed with Howard's assessment of the current standing of the team.

"We just want to put ourselves at best opportunity to win games" before the postseason starts, says Gibson.

"We feel confident going into the playoffs," says McIntosh. "We feel we can beat anyone if we play as a team."

Members of the women's team also have positive feelings about the season.

"I am very happy with where our team is right now; we are in a great place," says sophomore center on the women's team Payton Bieber. "We are ready for the road to nationals, keeping in mind to focus on one game at a time... and building off each game."

Figueroa's favorite moment of this season was a game against Southeastern Community College in West Burlington, Iowa. The Cobras won that game 93-82.

"Since I've been the head coach we had yet to defeat them so winning on their court was huge," says Figueroa.

McIntosh's favorite moment of the season so far



Photo by Peter Floess | Prospectus News

Payton Beiber takes a shot during a game against John Woods Community College on Feb 4.

was a home game against Rend Lake College of Ina, Illinois on Jan. 16. The Cobras won that game 77-69.

"We lost to Rend Lake by one point in overtime back in November after battling back from a 21 points deficit at half. That win showed that we have improved" over the season, says McIntosh.

Howard's favorite moment of the season so far was a home game against the number one ranked Triton College of

River Grove, Illinois on Dec. 10. The Cobras won that game 80-70. Howard says they lost to Triton last year in nationals so beating them was really rewarding.

Gibson enjoys the time the team spent in Iowa. His favorite moment of the season so far was "when our bus broke down and we had to spend nearly two days at a hotel in Iowa."

Dobrik's favorite moment of this season so far was the

home game against number four-ranked Kankakee Community College on Jan. 16. The Cobras won that game 71-66.

Kankakee had beaten the Cobras in late December, so it "was a signature win for this group," says Dobrik. "It was a game where the stats didn't matter, how it looked didn't matter. The girls just did whatever it took to get a big win against a team that is likely going to be at Nationals. It again showed how great the potential for this group can be and what they are capable of when they are willing to do whatever it takes."

Peyton enjoyed the rematch with the Kankakee on Jan. 16. Her other favorite moment was when the team won the 100th win in the career of Mike Lindemann as head coach of the women basketball team.

Lindemann "acted like it wasn't a big deal and it wasn't about him, but about us instead, but all in all he's the man behind the whole operation. We couldn't do it without him," says Peyton.

"We need all the fan support we can get so I would encourage everyone to come out and support your Cobras!" says Figueroa.

More information about Parkland basketball can be found at www.parkland.edu/athletics.



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