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# Prospectus, January 28, 2015

Parkland College

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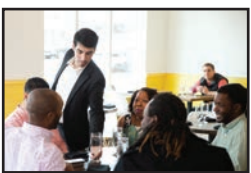
# Prospectus News

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# What makes an instructor interesting?

**PN** Humna Sharif  
Staff Writer

There are quite a few factors that contribute towards whether or not a class is likeable or interesting to students, and instructors undoubtedly play an important role in regards to that.

Students are in school to learn, and their own effort is the most important component in their success. An instructor's interest in the class and their willingness to help students in trouble can make the difference between the student getting an A or C in the course.

Instructors have the power to help students elevate their falling grades. A difficult course can turn into a bearable, even enjoyable, experience all because of how well the instructors are engaging the class.

"I generally look for someone who is very interested in their field and is excited to teach others about it," Engineering Major Brittany Webb said. "I like to know that an instructor is really passionate about what they are teaching. It makes it easy to learn."

The first day of class is also an important one. Instructors who let students know what their expectations are on the very first day of semester, and give out a clear syllabus plan, are very well liked by students.

"It's important for instructors to mean what they say. I appreciate teachers who set very clear guidelines in the beginning and then stick to them," Molly Rittenhouse, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Health Professions, said.

According to students, having an instructor who always comes to lecture prepared and ready to teach is always a big help. When an instructor comes to class prepared, it communicates to the students that the teacher is engaged with the class and serious about their job, which creates an environment for students where learning is promoted.

"The best teachers are those who come prepared, encourage friendly debate, and show students how what they're teaching relates to the real world," Rittenhouse elaborated. "They get students excited about the differences they can make in their own

lives and in the lives of others."

Instructors who make an effort to get to know their students and encourage students to get to know each other also enrich the classroom experience. Engagement and participation of students together in discussions and group projects is an important aspect of being in a class, which exposes students to the point of view of other people.

Instructors who put a lot of effort into what they do also bring out the best of the students. Students want to work hard in a class where teachers take the initiative of working hard and set an example.

"When a teacher has invested time and energy above and beyond their course material in me I feel like I need to meet them halfway in the effort I put into coursework," third semester History Major Jonathan Brandt remarked.

Giving students a chance during the class to ask questions about the topic being explained, leaving time at the end of the class for questions, and listening to problems that students might be facing are also qualities that are typically looked for in a teacher.

When instructors try to be flexible and adjust their expectations to a student's needs, then it works as a two way favor for the students because it encourages them to try even harder to excel in the class.

"Most instructors are pretty personable, but some need to work on how to get things across. For example, if I don't understand something, I might need it explained in a different way instead of the same way again," Webb commented. "It also bothers me when instructors make no effort to know their students. I'm paying to be here. I would appreciate them at least being able to acknowledge my presence by my name."

One thing students don't like is instructors pushing them too hard in getting to know their classmates. Some people have social anxiety and it's hard for them to talk to other people unless the situation feels comfortable. At the start of the semester, amidst new people and faces, students may find it hard to relate to other people and a teacher pushing them to do so only



Photo by Scott Wells/Prospectus News  
Dr. Daniel Ryan works in his office on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. Ryan is the Coordinator for the First Year Experience II program.

makes things more difficult.

"I think it would be a good idea to get to know a few classmates, but only so far as it makes the class easier. Anything else is a luxury that people may not have time for," Brandt said.

At the end of the day everyone has their own preferences and choices, but as far as instructors are concerned,

them being Personable for students, Prepared to lecture, and Passionate about their field, are three P's that will get any instructor into most student's good books.

After all, we have all had that one teacher who is so good that we are willing to schedule all our classes around the class they teach.

# Bridging the gap between semester breaks

**PN** Zach Trueblood  
Staff Writer

One of the biggest struggles any college faces is the ability to retain students from their first semester to their second. Countless hours are spent trying to crack the code of what makes students tick and perform well academically.

Parkland faces these challenges just as any other institution does. Since the college is made up of such a diverse community, certain programs and actions must be implemented to improve student retention.

One program that specifically aids Latino and Latina first year students is the Comadre y Compadre Program. It was implemented in full force the 2014 Fall semester and has significantly increased Latino and Latina student retention.

According to the coordinators of the program, Moises Orozco and Eduardo Coronel, out of 59 students they have successfully helped 51 of those make the transition from first to second semester. This transition has been in no small part due to the guidance of the mentors that are part of



Photo by Scott Wells/Prospectus News  
Business Administration student Valeria Rohde studies in the Center for Academic Success on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

program. "We're really trying to improve our students' success whether they're obtaining a certificate or transferring to another institution. We had around 90 percent of our mentees finish Fall semester and make the transition to Spring," Orozco claimed.

Another way that Parkland is helping to bridge the gap between semesters is by offering the Psychology 109 course. The course will soon be renamed to First Year Experience, or FYE 101.

One instructor that teaches Psychology 109 is Dan Ryan. "The course is essentially a

college student success course. It's designed for students to figure out what drives them and how that fits in here at Parkland," Ryan stated.

The PSY 109, or soon to be FYE 101, course is available to all students. Ryan stated that the attendance has been diverse; there have been non-

traditional students, Pathway students, and athletes. There are even sub-sections of the course designed to assist Student Veterans.

According to Ryan, the course has three main areas of focus. The first is to connect students with faculty. The second is to help them build relationships with other students and create a support system. The final is for students to become aware of all the student services Parkland has to offer, such as CAS, Career Services, Trio, the Library, and Counseling and Advising.

Ryan's other role is Coordinator for First Year Experience. He's been instrumental in the development of a school-wide mentoring program called the IConnect Mentoring Program.

This new mentoring program is funded by the Ideas Grant, the same grant that has funded the Comadre y Compadre program.

"We're actually rolling out the program in two phases," Ryan explained. "The first phase will be pairing new, first semester students with

See GAP on P. 5

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## Fact or Fiction?

No two snowflakes are exactly the same.  
(Find the answer on page 5)

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# Illinois pays millions to keep inmates who are unable to find a home

**CHICAGO**  
(AP)

Illinois spends as much as \$25 million a year to keep inmates in prison because they can't find suitable places to live that meet the terms of their parole.

Nearly 1,250 inmates are held beyond their release dates each year, the Chicago Tribune reported. The issue mostly affects sex offenders, who face housing restrictions, as well as those subject to electronic monitoring as part of parole.

Corrections officials say the practice began about a decade ago. They're frustrated by delays, but say they're tied by restrictions on how close sex offenders can live to schools, parks and other places there are likely to be children. Just

nine beds in Illinois halfway houses are reserved for sex offenders, none of them in Cook County, according to officials.

Prisoners must be released by the time their parole ends, which can be as long as three years. If held for the duration of their parole, they don't receive any parole services when they do get out.

"We believe it's better to go back to society in a supervised fashion," Illinois Department of Corrections spokesman Tom Shaer said. "We believe in the parole mission."

Shaer said it costs nearly \$22,000 a year to keep an inmate in prison, while parole costs about \$2,000.

Critics say the poor are unfairly impacted. The Illinois Supreme Court recently took up a case

challenging the practice, but said it might be better addressed by state legislators.

The inmate in that case, Johnny Cordrey, was scheduled for a three-year parole term to begin April 2013, but parole officers said he couldn't find a suitable home. He was released in October, before the Supreme Court took the case, and his attorney said Cordrey was given a one-way bus ticket to Peoria to try to get into a Salvation Army shelter.

Cordrey was sentenced to 36 years in prison for kidnapping and rape in 1993.

"The guy had no support, no tools, so we just threw him out



Image courtesy of stockvault.net

on the streets," said Chicago attorney E. King Poor, who represented Cordrey. "I said, 'Johnny, what are you going to do?' He said, 'I don't know.' That same story gets repeated over and over with other

inmates."

Information from: Chicago Tribune  
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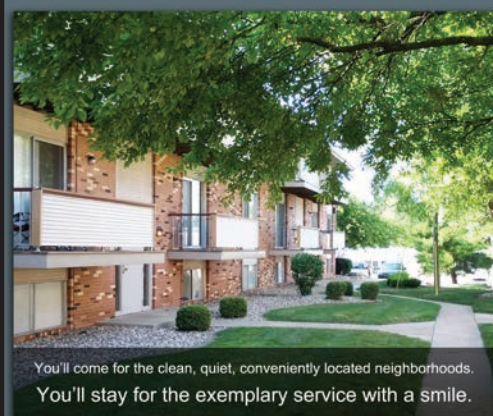
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## Fact or Fiction?

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# Lifestyle

## No-tip restaurant offers new pay, benefits



Image courtesy of AP Photo/Matt Rourke

Co-owner Cristian Mora serves customers on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014, at Girard a "No-Tip" restaurant in Philadelphia. The new restaurant in Philadelphia offers French-inspired cuisine and food for thought: Customers are told they don't have to tip. That's because servers at Girard Brasserie and Bruncherie earn about \$13 an hour. They also get sick time, vacation days and health insurance. The restaurant has reignited debate over working conditions in the food service industry, where high wages and benefits are almost unheard of.

**Kathy Matheson**  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) Customers to Girard Brasserie and Bruncherie might be in for a surprise when they read the note attached to their bills: "Tipping is not necessary."

That's food for thought in an industry where servers depend on gratuities for the bulk of their pay. Yet staff at the French-inspired restaurant earn about \$13 an hour, and they get sick time, vacation days and health insurance.

The economics aren't easy, said Girard co-owner Brian Oliveira. Ideally, though, the provisions make for more loyal and content employees, who then create a better experience for customers, he said.

"We had to make less money as owners and sacrifice some of that, but in the end, it created a better environment and everyone's happier," said Oliveira, who is also the chef.

The unusual model highlights a debate about pay and conditions in an

industry that employs 10 percent of the U.S. workforce, according to the National Restaurant Association.

The group doesn't track the number of no-tip models among the nation's nearly 1 million eateries, but examples have popped up over the past year in Pittsburgh, New York, Los Angeles and near Cincinnati.

The federal hourly minimum wage for non-tipped workers, such as dishwashers and cooks, is \$7.25; the minimum for tipped workers like waiters and bartenders is \$2.13. Paid time off and medical benefits are almost unheard of in the high-turnover business.

Congress hasn't raised the tipped wage in nearly 25 years. The restaurant association, which has fought increased minimums, argues that requiring higher wages will force owners to lay off servers, cut workers' hours or raise prices.

Some cities and states, acting to address growing income inequality, have raised the tipping wage on their own.

Among the highest: \$10.74 an hour in San Francisco, \$9.47 an hour in Washington state and \$9.25 an hour in Oregon.

The state minimum for tipped employees in Pennsylvania is \$2.83 hourly. After taking tips into account, that translates into a median wage of \$8.25 an hour, or just over \$17,000 per year for a full-time employee, according to Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, an organization seeking to improve conditions in the field.

But tips offer the potential to earn a lot more and sometimes much more quickly than even a higher hourly wage might allow, said Geoff Bowman, a longtime bartender in Philadelphia.

Currently in between bar gigs, he earns \$2.83 plus tips as a server at Dottie's Dinette, just few blocks from Girard in the city's Fishtown section. Bowman acknowledged the lack of time off and health insurance have been "speed bumps and challenges" in a career he otherwise enjoys.

At Girard, the menu and checks explain that "dishes are priced accordingly" to provide staff with higher wages and benefits. A fixed price, three-course dinner ranges from \$31 to \$42.

Kelly Cinquegrana visited Girard shortly after its debut in late November, in part to support the idea of a better working environment. The cost of the meal was reasonable "equal to giving a tip, anyway" and she gave the food and service a glowing review on Yelp.

"I think it's pretty important to want to treat waitstaff well," Cinquegrana said.

So far, only one employee, a dishwasher, has used a paid sick day, said Girard co-owner Cristian Mora. Scheduling is harder than he imagined and margins are tight; the new approach is "not for everyone," he said.

"A lot of people do make a very good living with the model as it is now, with the guest leaving a tip," he said.

But Mora, who also didn't have

health insurance for most of his 15-year restaurant career, said he's glad to be among the vanguard.

He noted about half the customers are leaving tips of 5 percent to 10 percent for a job well done what Mora calls "a true gratuity," akin to the European custom of leaving a token amount for servers, who generally earn a living wage and have national health care.

Girard waitress Katie Breen, 31, says she's been able to work almost full-time as the restaurant's business has increased, yielding a decent paycheck on top of about \$250 weekly in tips. She's making less money than at past serving jobs, but the overall quality of life is better for her and her 3-year-old daughter.

"I have a better schedule, I have health insurance," Breen said. "I think that this is the best job that I have ever had."

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## Obama idea to trim college savings hits GOP opposition

**Stephen Ohlemacher**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) President Barack Obama's proposal to scale back the tax benefits of college savings accounts is running into opposition from Republicans in Congress who say they have no intention of raising taxes on families trying to save money for their children's education.

Obama's plan would reduce the tax benefits of future contributions to the popular 529 college savings plans. Current accounts would be grandfathered, so existing funds could still grow and be withdrawn, tax-free.

The administration says all the additional tax revenue would be used to help expand and make permanent a \$2,500 tax credit that families can use for education expenses. Under current law, the tax credit is scheduled to expire at the end of 2017.

"The president's plan would consolidate education savings incentives into one vehicle and redirect the savings into the better targeted" American Opportunity Tax Credit, the White House says in a description of the proposal.

Obama laid out the proposal as part of this week's State of the Union address. It is part of a broader effort by the Obama administration to simplify a sometimes confusing array of tax breaks designed to make higher education more affordable.

Obama is also proposing a \$60 billion plan



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

President Barack Obama speaks during a visit to the University of Kansas Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, in Lawrence, Kansas. Obama was speaking about the themes in his State of the Union address.

to make the first two years of community or technical college free.

Congressional Republicans have embraced the effort to simplify the education tax breaks,

but key GOP leaders adamantly oppose scaling back college savings plans.

"Middle-income families that have worked hard and saved to send their children to college should receive our support, not a new tax bill to pay for (Obama's) agenda," said Rep. Lynn Jenkins, R-Kan.

Jenkins said she supports the American Opportunity Tax Credit, but said the \$2,500 limit doesn't come close to covering the annual cost of a college education.

"I have two kids in college. It's about \$20,000 per kid, at a minimum," Jenkins said. "Where are we supposed to get the rest?"

Contributions to college savings plans are not tax-deductible. But once the money is invested, it can grow and eventually be withdrawn with no tax on the earnings, as long as the money is spent on tuition, fees, books and supplies needed to attend postsecondary school.

The savings plans, which are sponsored by states, can also be used to prepay college tuition.

The Obama administration says college savings plans mostly benefit wealthier families.

"Tax incentives are more beneficial to families with higher tax liabilities, in part because these families have a higher marginal tax rate," the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, said in a 2012 report.

About 12 million families take advantage of college savings plans. About half were held by

See OBAMA on P. 5



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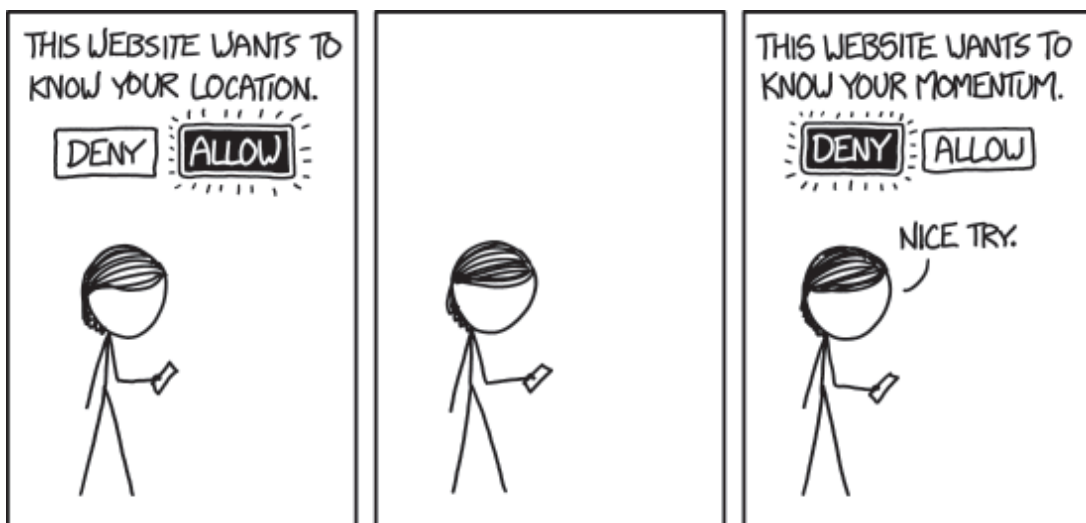
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## Sudoku (intermediate)

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

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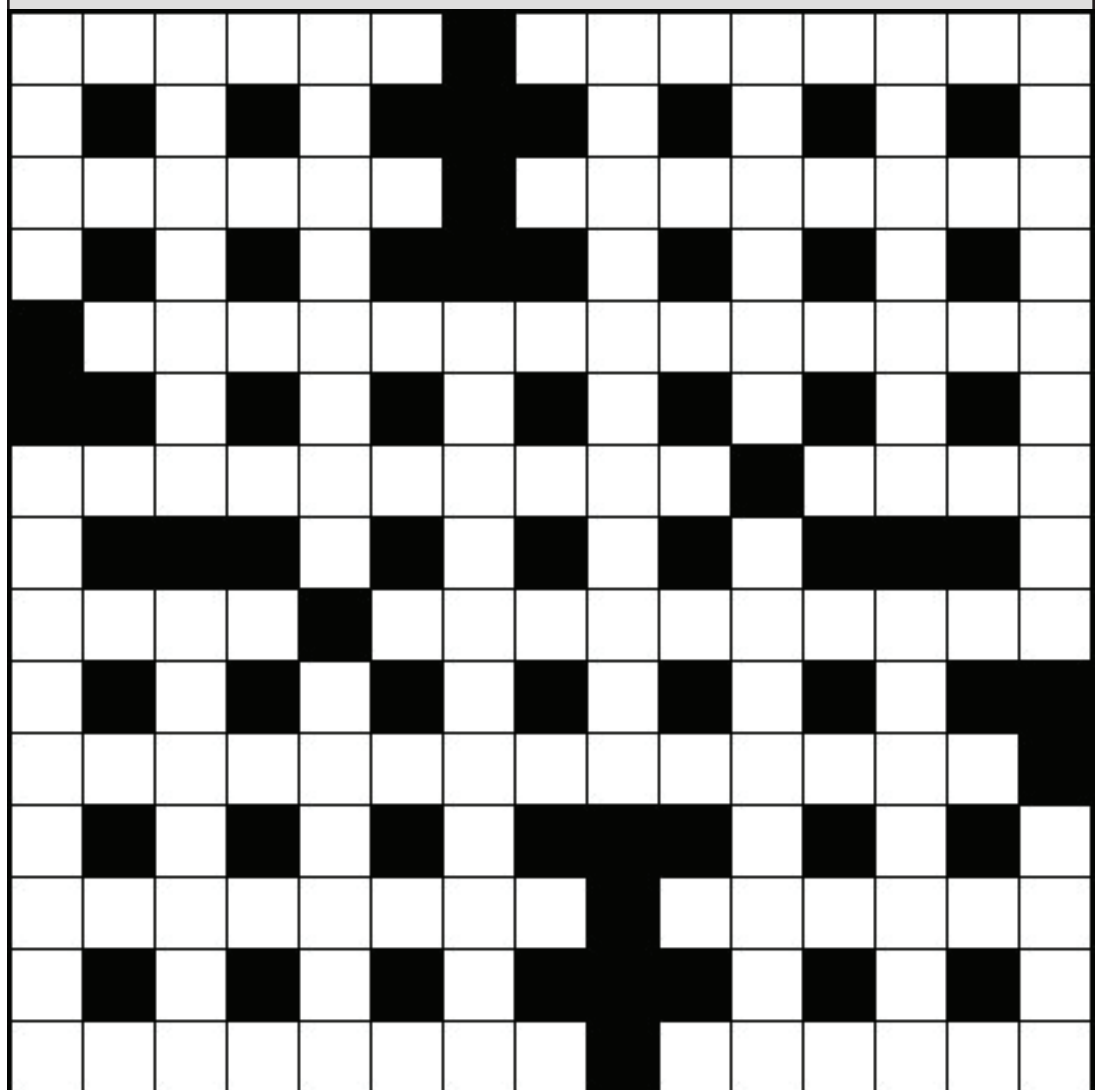
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## Crossword

Method: Solve the clues and fit them where they will go.



- A) Sweet and sour with a small drink (4,4)
- B) Soprano Cecilia looking up a great deal, surrounded by some baritones (7)
- C) Means of giving information to one guy in the services (14)
- D) Laid back sect developed localised variants of language (8)
- E) Groups that are one over the eight? (7)
- F) Having a painful condition brought about by Jack's teeth? (11)
- G) A near relative I see is said to be Teutonic (8)
- H) It's a bleeding nuisance when I ham Ophelia badly (11)
- I) Eric possibly is unemployed (4)
- J) Yes, the German's snoring in the music (4); Garment from sail? Nonsense! (6)
- K) Tend to look up (4)
- L) An explosive noise after cutting top off fruit tree (7)
- M) Could be montages of units of explosive power (8)
- N) Old M; terribly sad following the end of Bolton Wanderers (6)
- O) Old poem, one found among poems by misfits (8)
- P) Might have been offered in exchange for a foal? (9); Boy has nothing to give to a girl. That's some thought (10)
- Q) Find tail of oriole in search for woodpigeon (6)
- R) Frolics following music by singers (9)
- S) The quality of being impassive requires tolerance chiefly - in hard head (10)
- T) Eponymous amphibian in time had a fool ( a dolt) confused (4,2,4,4)
- U) Consumes American drink without a hint of enthusiasm (4,2)
- V) Heartlessly boast about one's years in position of superiority (7)
- W) Every time that we should admit women only, the vicar comes round! (8)
- X) The team look for a place in China (6)
- Y) A group of students. Yes, right (4)
- Z) Focus attention on King of France wearing his nose backwards (4,2)



# GAP

continued from page 1

faculty and staff this spring. The second phase will begin in fall and new students will be paired with successful, returning peer mentors. We want to grow smart with the program. There's a great deal of excitement about it at the college and we're getting a lot of great support from faculty and staff."

Business Administration major Gracson Torres has seen firsthand the ways in which Parkland helps students succeed.

Torres explained that being a

part of the Parkland Soccer Team motivated her to do well in her courses in order to be eligible to play. She also said that being on the team makes her feel like she is part of something.

"I believe Parkland offers students a lot of success, such as the technology, student help centers, one on one help with professors, and all of the organizations. It's also a very involved college when it comes to student life, therefore there's always some activity going on which makes students feel involved," Torres stated. "But when I broke my leg in October I had to miss two weeks of school which caused my GPA to drop and to withdraw from a

course. I felt as if nobody at Parkland helped me prevent those issues from happening. Students go through these issues and can't control it, so I believe there should be some sort of support system."

Parkland has many programs in place, along with up and coming ones, to help improve student success from one semester to the next but there is still work to be done. The emphasis on aiding new students is strong but, in addition to helping newcomers, Parkland must also cater to other students as well.

For more information about the IConnect Mentoring Program, contact Dan Ryan at 217-353-2069 or DRyan@parkland.edu.

# OBAMA

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families making more than \$150,000, according to the GAO report.

About 30 percent of plans were held by families who make less than \$100,000, the report said.

Families could continue contributing to college savings accounts under Obama's proposal. Students would have to pay taxes on the earnings, but not until the money is withdrawn.

Obama's proposal would make similar changes to Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, which

are similar to 529 accounts but have income limits.

The president's plan for expanding the \$2,500 tax credit for college expenses would make it available to families with incomes up to \$180,000 a year.

The amount of the credit would grow with inflation, and students could use it for up to five years, as long as they are attending school at least part-time.

Currently, students can only receive the credit for four years.

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On November 20th, SUAA's Motion to Strike the State's Police Powers Defense, along with

others, was granted. On November 21st, the Sangamon County Circuit Court entered a final

declaratory judgment that the massive pension reductions (Public Act 98-0599) are

unconstitutional and void in its entirety. SUAA will continue to fight these changes before the

Illinois State Supreme Court next year (2015).

HELP - To date the SUAA Legal Fund has spent over \$300,000 on legal fees. Please send your

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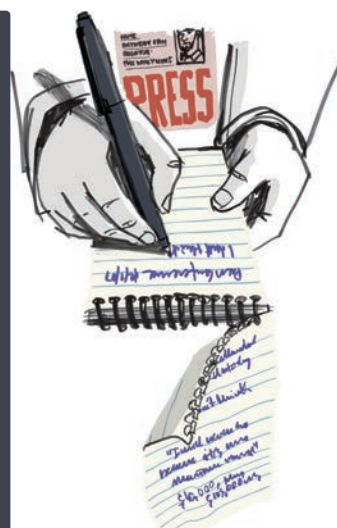


Illustration by Gail Campagna



# Entertainment

## 'Deadheads' ask to camp during Chicago concerts



The Dead, formerly the Grateful Dead, perform at the Forum in the Inglewood section of Los Angeles, Calif on May 9, 2009. Grateful Dead fans want Chicago's Soldier Field to allow a campout-style atmosphere during a weekend of concerts in July 2015 billed as the band's very last, but city officials say they won't be making that decision any time soon.

**Sophia Tareen**  
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) Fans of the Grateful Dead want a campout style atmosphere during three 50th anniversary concerts in July at Chicago's Soldier Field, but whether the venue will allow it is another question.

Jeremy Davis, of Florida, started an online petition, which had about 8,000 signatures by Saturday requesting that overnight parking be allowed in lots surrounding the stadium along Lake Michigan.

Davis said it would keep the anticipated tens of thousands of fans from crowding downtown

streets and reduce traffic congestion.

He added that fans are eager for what could be one of the band's last shows and are willing to pay more and it could be an economic opportunity for Chicago.

Also, it's long been a Deadhead tradition with fans bringing RV's to concerts with "no negativity," he said.

"It's something that we've been doing for so long," said Davis, who works in finance but also makes jewelry sold at concerts "This is almost a no brainer."

Officials in Chicago said many factors have to be considered, among them safety. Opening lots around Soldier Field for more than four

hours prior to the show the typical time will take resources and coordination from police, the fire department and other agencies.

He said an evaluation would take place over the coming weeks.

"While we understand the desires of some of the community, this is something that requires a cooperative evaluation from several entities to make a determination," said Soldier Field spokesman Luca Serra.

The area around Soldier Field isn't new to festival-style concerts. For the last decade, Chicago's lakefront Grant Park has hosted Lollapalooza, where dozens of musical artists perform over several days.

For Davis, the Grateful Dead's Chicago concerts during the July 4 holiday weekend could be a meaningful and final opportunity to see other fans.

Several original band members are reuniting for the "Fare Thee Well" concerts. The band gave its final performances with lead singer Jerry Garcia in Chicago in July 1995. He died later that year.

"This is the last chance for the family to be together," Davis said.

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## Cervantes searchers find casket with his initials inscribed

**Jorge Sainz**  
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) Experts searching for the remains of Miguel de Cervantes said Monday that they found wooden fragments of a casket bearing the initials "M.C." with bones in and around them in a crypt underneath the chapel of a cloistered convent in Madrid.

Archaeologists made the find over the weekend during excavations to solve the centuries-old mystery of where the famed Spanish writer was laid to rest. The initials on a plank of the coffin were formed with metal tacks imbedded into the wood.

The bones of at least 10 people were found inside the niche containing the broken wooden planks of the coffin, though some of the remains belonged to children, said forensic anthropologist Francisco Etxeberria, who participated in the autopsy that confirmed the suicide of former Chilean president Salvador Allende.

Etxeberria and others will now start examining the bones to try to determine whether Cervantes' are among them. Cervantes was 69 when he died

and investigators have solid clues to work with as they conduct their probe.

The investigation will refer to the author's portraits and his own stories, in which he relates that shortly before dying he only had six teeth.

But the most obvious marks will be the battle wounds that Cervantes sustained.

In 1571, the writer was wounded in the Battle of Lepanto, which pitted Ottoman Turkish forces against the Holy League, led by Spain. Aboard the ship La Marquesa, Cervantes was hit with three musket shots, two in the chest and one in his hand.

He spent several months in a hospital in Sicily, but managed to recover.

Cervantes is a towering figure in Spanish culture. His novel "The Adventures of the Ingenious Nobleman Don Quixote of La Mancha" changed Spanish literature.

The "Don Quixote" author was buried in 1616 at Convent of the Barefoot Trinitarians in Madrid's historic Barrio de las Letras, or Literary Quarter. But the exact whereabouts of his grave within the convent chapel were unknown.

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A team of archaeologists and anthropologists take notes after starting the excavation work after identifying three unrecorded and unidentified graves in the chapel's crypt of the closed order Convent of the Barefoot Trinitarians in Madrid's historic Barrio de las Letras, or Literary Quarter, Spain, Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015.

## Imps! by Jeff Harris

