

the PROSPECTUS

Humans of Parkland: Nour Kibech

emma FLEMING | Co-Editor

Nour Kibech, a dedicated Parkland student and mother of two, is not a traditional college student. Nour was born in the United States after her father moved to Colorado from Algeria to study during the 1980s. Although born in the U.S., Nour grew up in northeastern Annaba, Algeria. Nour began taking classes at Parkland last September and is currently striving towards a degree from the Dental Hygiene Program.

Nour longed to travel back to the U.S. "From a young age, I always dreamed to be back in the States to

study and have a better life," Nour said. "My father said that once I graduated, he would help me get back to the States."

Nour received her baccalaureate in Algeria, what Nour describes as the equivalent to a high school diploma. As Nour prepared to travel to the States, she noticed that her family was hesitant to let her leave. "My father couldn't imagine me moving all the way to the United States," Nour said. "So, I decided to try to travel on my own. I was able to borrow money from a good friend since I was broke and convinced my mom to let me go, so she helped me too." Nour's mother sold

a piece of her own jewelry to buy Nour's plane ticket, supporting her daughter's dream of studying in the U.S. It was not easy for Nour to leave her family in Algeria. "My father did not have a choice but to face the bitter reality," Nour said. "He drove me to the airport, and it was the first time in my life that I saw him cry."

After her parents reconciled with the fact that she was headed back to the States, Nour realized that traveling alone was much harder than it appeared to be. "I didn't make it completely on my own," Nour said. "I didn't have any money and I couldn't speak the language. At this

point I started to look for someone who could host me. I tried to reach some of my father's friends he knew back in the 80s, but those few people just ignored me." With financial and language barriers impeding Nour's travel process, she turned to the internet to find help. Nour ended up finding help from people she found on a chat website. "I did not have a choice but to search for help online. I was able to find Moroccan girls who opened their home to me," Nour said.

Nour finally made it to the United States in Oct. 2009, where she worked as a waitress



Source: Nour Kibech

Nour studies in the Center for Academic Success to achieve her dream of going to college in the USA.

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Photo by Sidney Mounts

The audience watching the band practice before the show begins at 3pm to 5pm on March 10 for the spring concert.

The Human Library is coming to Parkland College

nicoline HANSEN | Digital Editor

The world-known Human Library phenomenon has finally found its way to Parkland College. The event is planned and hosted by the Diversity Committee and will be held on Friday, April 5.

According to the Human Library's official website, the event was invented and first held in Copenhagen, Denmark in the spring of 2000. The idea behind the event was to "build a positive framework for conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue."

During the Human

Library | 3

Support Illinois literacy with UC Books To Prisoners



Source: Ayla McDonald

Community Volunteers Make Signs for the B2P Book Sale.

ayla MCDONALD | Co-Editor

The Independent Media Center (IMC) located at 202 South Broadway Avenue in downtown Urbana will host a semi-annual book sale for the local volunteer-run project Urbana Champaign Books To Prisoners. To be held on Saturday March 30 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., the book sale will feature a range of

hardback and paperback books for sale at prices of \$0.50 and \$2. Proceeds of the book sale will go to support the operation of the Urbana Champaign Books To Prisoners project.

According to the website books2prisoners.org, "UC Books to Prisoners is an Urbana, Illinois based project providing books to Illinois inmates at no

cost by mail as well as through two county jail libraries which we operate. We are a community-powered volunteer organization...Our volunteers interact with inmates by reading their letters, selecting books from our collection of donated materials and sending books to

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Parkland to Screen the Documentary, Free Cece



Source: IMDb

A detail of the Free Cece movie poster.

paul BENSON | Reporter

At 1:00 PM on April 12th, 2019, Parkland College will be hosting a free public screening of the movie Free Cece in room C-118.

The movie is about Cece McDonald, a transgender woman of color who was brutally attacked for her race and for being trans. McDonald killed a man in self-defense and was

arrested for murder. Despite identifying as a woman, McDonald was put into a men's prison. Parkland Pride Advisor, Tanino Minneci, told the Prospectus, "On top of the problematic nature of Cece being tried and convicted for defending herself, then she was put in a male prison and had to suffer all the mental and physical abuse. Basically, her body

or her gender wasn't being respected by the criminal justice system. So, there were a lot of people who ended up fighting for the cause to free Cece."

Laverne Cox, an American Actress and LGBT+ advocate starring as Sophia Burset in the Netflix series Orange is the New

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Culture

Movie

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Black, caught wind of McDonald's case. Cox worked with documentary filmmaker Jac Gares to tell the story of Cece McDonald and bring attention to the issues that transgender women of color have to go through on a daily basis. The documentary is told through an interview between Laverne Cox and Cece McDonald.

Minneci said that he found out about McDonald at last year's Midwestern Bisexual Lesbian Gay Trans Asexual College Conference, (MBLGTACC,) where McDonald was a keynote speaker. From the conference, Tanino did research to figure out how

to bring McDonald's story to Parkland. "I thought that it could be a really important learning tool for us here at Parkland and just for anybody. But, I thought that it could spark some really interesting conversations at Parkland. So, I looked into the prospect of purchasing the rights and an institutional copy for the college and the library was kind enough to absorb that into their library buying budget." Minneci said. The movie is one-hour and forty-minutes long. There will be an open discussion after the movie led by an LGBT+ speaker from the Champaign-Urbana community. There will also be an announcement for Parkland Pride's drag show on May 10th.

The discussion following the screening



Laverne Cox presents a documentary on one of the most controversial imprisonments of a trans woman in America

A FILM BY JAC GARES MEDIA, INC.
DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY JAC GARES EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY LAVERNE COX
PRODUCED BY SLOBODAN RANDJELOVIC ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JORDANA LESENE

A detail of the Free Cece movie poster. Source: IMDb

is bound to be interesting. "It's a film that will spark a lot of conversation." Minneci said. "It was really interesting, we screened it for a small group of pride people including myself, a few students, and Jessica [Jackson] was there as well. Jessica had a very strong reaction to it. She even mentioned to me that there were a few times where she thought she wouldn't be able to keep watching. That she might have to get up and leave or stop the movie for a bit."

Minneci reflected on his own experience with trans hate and injustice while in New York. "Before I moved back to Champaign and began working at Parkland, I spent 7 years working at an emergency shelter for LGBTQ+ youth in midtown Manhattan,"

Minneci said. "At least half of the clientele that I worked with were trans youth and probably 80%-to-90% of those trans youths were trans youths of color. Almost all of them had interactions with the cops and almost all of them had at some point an incident or event that led them to be arrested or have to be advocated for in a criminal justice setting. So, I witnessed a lot of this first hand. I witnessed the trans youth that were staying at our shelter regularly get harassed, get threatened, and get beat up even. So, it's out there, we may not see it in our daily lives, but for people who are trans and for people who are living in those environments, it is a very real problem."

Books

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inmates in response to their requests."

Rachel Rasmussen, the Books To Prisoners Volunteer Coordinator, told the Prospectus that the Project was started in 2004 by a University of Illinois student. "The story is he got a shoebox of letters from incarcerated people asking for books and that he began to answer them," Rasmussen said. "And then very shortly [after] there was a fuller more robust, more organized non-profit organization at the IMC...We are the largest supplier of

books inside prisons in the state of Illinois, and partly that's because the State has had no funding to buy books."

With the exception of Rasmussen as the only paid staff member, Books To Prisoners is completely volunteer run and offers three weekly volunteer sessions at the IMC building on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m., and on Thursdays and Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. The program is dependent upon donations from the community. Books To Prisoners has many donation drop-off boxes around town, including a box located outside of the Parkland Library on the first floor of the X-wing. While volunteers

handle direct book requests from incarcerated people, a list of generally needed and non-acceptable items in the form of books, electronics and monetary donations, as well as a list of local book drop-off locations can be found at books2prisoners.org. "This community, we're the flagship campus of University of Illinois, and then Parkland, it's just a very literate, high-reading community. It's a community very interested in education, so it's an easy sell to get people to want to help incarcerated people get their hands on books." Rasmussen said. "The donations flood in. We're a town uniquely

set up to be able to do that."

Rasmussen spoke to the power of Books To Prisoners as an educational force for incarcerated people, representing a link to their futures in the outside world. "Education is the most cost effective and the most successful intervention in recidivism," Rasmussen said. "So, education, morale and hope and courage, the fact that somebody remembered them, that there are people who come and do this for them amazes them. They write to us, but they don't know who we are...we get prayed for, we get cards and letters, they'll send us Christmas and holiday

cards with no requests. The fact that someone outside hasn't given up on them and still thinks that they have something to contribute to society, it's a sense of, how would you like to be identified forever by the worst thing that you did as opposed to what good you still might have to do. So, we represent that for them. We don't advertise in the prisons, and we get about 180 letters a month from incarcerated people throughout the state of Illinois."

Rasmussen shared a letter from an incarcerated person who received books from the Books To Prisoners Project. "This man tells so amazingly

the difference that it makes to get books," Rasmussen said. "He basically is telling us he started out illiterate, a high school dropout, and since got an associate's degree. He sent us his transcript even. He's so proud of himself, his GPA is 3.4, and when he gets out he wants to get a college Master's degree in substance abuse. That's a total turn-around story. He credits us, but it's also his own initiative."

For more information about Champaign Urbana Books To Prisoners, to be added to the project's newsletter, or to get involved, visit books2prisoners.org.

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On Campus



Closer shot of the concert band practicing before the show on March 10.

Photo by Sidney Mounts

Humans

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in Arlington, Virginia to earn money so she could file for her family to live with her in the States. “The reason why I did not start school in the states when I first came was that I had to choose between either bringing my family with

me or going to school. For me, family came first,” Nour said. In the meantime, Nour married and had her two children. “This was another obstacle that blocked me from starting school when I got here,” Nour said. After nine years of waiting for an American education, Nour was finally able to settle herself, her husband and children, and her family from Algeria, in

the Urbana Champaign area and begin studying at Parkland. “Parkland College, to me, is a dream come true,” Nour said. “I call it my second home since I spend more time at Parkland than in my own home.” One of the most important and influential places for Nour is Parkland’s Center for Academic Success (D120). “I am so thankful for every-one who works there

[D120],” Nour said. “Mrs. Taylor who always welcomes me with her wonderful smile, Sue Jones who I drove crazy with questions last semester, Omar who answers any of my math questions, and the peer tutors who are also amazing and always willing to help are why I love D120.” Nour utilizes CAS in hopes of fulfilling her educational goal of being accepted into

the Dental Hygiene Program in the future. Although Nour’s dream has always been to live in the States, it did not come without hardship once she arrived. “The transition was difficult since I used to depend on my parents in Algeria,” Nour said. “I never worked over there, and I did not have to worry about paying for food or rent. Taking on such responsibilities was huge for

me and I was not even able to go to school at that time.” Nour also acknowledged that there were many differences between American and Algerian ways of life. “There was a difference in mentality and culture,” Nour said. “Everything was different here compared to Algeria. But I was mentally prepared for this big change and made my dream a reality.”

Library

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Library events, real people with important stories are “on loan” to readers. The readers get to sit down with the ‘books’ and hear their stories. These events are great for sharing important stories but also for asking tough questions. The

Human Library website describes the events as “a place where difficult questions are expected, appreciated and answered.” Since the first event was held in Denmark, the idea has been spread across the world and has now found its way to Parkland College. The books that will be available on the day of the event are all from different back-grounds and will be

sharing stories about everything from experi-encing violence and prejudice to stories about redemption and being stereotyped. Kristen Stephens, who is a part of the Diversity Committee, explained that “the purpose [of the event] is to continue the college efforts of promoting an inclu-sive work environment by providing all... a platform where they can share and learn

from each other’s work and life experi-ence with the goal of us all growing together as a collec-tive unit.” According Stephens, the event will be rather informal. After the books have shared their stories, the read-ers will be able to ask questions based on the book’s prefer-ence, which allows a dialogue to be made. Stephens explained that allowing the

readers to ask ques-tions makes the event “an interactive experi-ence rather than an ‘audiobook’ format.” The event will be happening on Friday, April 5 and will be a part of a larger series of conversation about diversity and inclu-siveness that will be happening throughout Parkland’s campus. Though the event is open to anyone interested whether it being students, faculty,

staff, or the commu-nity, it is important to note that there will only be a limited number of spots open. To attend the event, please send an email to benefits@parkland.edu with the subject line ‘Human Library’. **To learn more about the Human Library and the ideas behind it, please visit their website humanlibrary.org.**



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Cobra Sports

Four Cobras Honored with Conference, Region Awards

By Chad Beyler

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – Three Parkland men’s basketball players were honored by the M-WAC and Region 24 with postseason awards, as announced by the conference and regional offices. Sophomore guard Yaakema Rose Jr. was named Co-Player of the Year in both the M-WAC and Region 24, while head coach Anthony Figueroa was named the 2018-19 M-WAC Men’s Basketball Coach of the Year.

Joining Rose Jr. on the regional and conference ballots was freshman Bruno Williams Jr. – named to the All-Region Team and Second Team All-M-WAC. Sophomore point guard Ty’Ohn Trimble joined Williams Jr. on the Second Team. Honored with his third M-WAC Coach of the Year accolade in the last four seasons, head coach Anthony Figueroa guided the Cobras to a 24-4 season and their fourth conference championship. Ranked as high as third, the Cobras won their first 11 games of the

season to mark the most during Figueroa’s tenure. Despite featuring 10 newcomers on the roster, the Cobras earned the top seed in the Region 24 Tournament and advanced to the Regional Championship with a 60-59 win over Illinois Central. A native of Springfield, Ill., Rose Jr. led the Cobras with 16.1 points per game with a 43.9 shooting percentage, while also grabbing 4.1 rebounds per game and 2.5 assists per game. Twice named

the Parkland Men’s Athlete of the Month (November, February), Rose Jr. scored in double figures in 23 of the Cobras’ 28 games, including seven 20-point performances with three coming in the final two weeks of the season. Sharing the Player of the Year honors with John Wood’s Cory Miller Jr., Rose Jr. finished his career at Parkland by averaging 20.5 points across the two Region 24 Tournament games. Along with Rose Jr., Bruno Williams Jr. was named to the Region 24 All-Region Team and Second Team All-MWAC as the Cobras’ second leading scorer (11.4) and top rebounder (5.7). Passing the 20-point threshold three times on the season, the first-year Cobra accomplished the feat twice in a seven-day span, tallying 20 points at Danville Area on February 16 and then 25 points at John Wood on February 23. The 20-point performance at Danville Area also gave Williams Jr. his second double-double of the season.



Yaakema Rose Jr. – Player of the Year Source: Parkland Athletics

The third Cobra to make the M-WAC All-Conference Team, point guard Ty’Ohn Trimble facilitated an efficient Parkland offense in his second season. Averaging a team-leading 4.2 assists per game, Trimble took care the basketball to a tune of a 2.8 assist-to-turnover ratio that ranked among the top-25 guards in the country. In addition to



Anthony Figueroa, Coach of the Year Source: Parkland Athletics

setting up his teammates, Trimble also averaged 9.6 points per game to rank third on the team behind a 41.8 field-goal percentage. Trimble scored in double figures in 11 of the team’s first 12 games, including a season-high 21 points at Division I Southeastern on December 17.

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Shirin Ebadi



Source: Shirin Ebadi - Fronteiras do Pensamento Sao Paulo 2011, flicker.com, ShareAlike 2.0

According to the Nobel Prize website, Shirin Ebadi was born in Hamadan, Iran in 1947. Ebadi attended Tehran University to begin her journey in law and received her law degree in 3.5 years. In 1975, Ebadi held the President of Bench 24 City Court position and became the first woman in the history of Iranian justice to serve as a judge. The lawyer has also written several books and articles that were published in Iranian journals. Ebadi has fought for human rights and has represented political dissidents in Iran. She also founded various initiatives to promote democracy and human rights. Ebadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003.

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The Prospectus works to proliferate information relevant to Parkland-goers and provide its student workers with a space conducive to the learning environment.

The Prospectus is Parkland College’s campus-wide student newspaper, and has been in constant production since late 1968. Our reporters and editors are exclusively students of Parkland College with a variety of majors and career interests, not just communications and journalism. We set out to provide an outlet for students to further develop their writing, photography, communication, time management, and critical thinking skills while producing a quality, trusted source of news for Parkland-goers. The Prospectus publishes weekly during Parkland’s spring and fall semesters and three times during the summer semester.

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