



# Prospectus News

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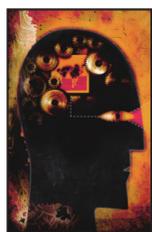
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# Textbook prices soar in 2013

**PN** Ernie Springer  
Staff Writer

Parkland students hit the bookstore last week, waiting in long lines to purchase the required texts they will need for the fall semester.

For most students, however, the wait was of little annoyance compared to the sticker shock associated with buying textbooks.

"I spent \$93 on what are essentially worksheets.

Living at home makes it easier, but I am paying out of pocket for my books right now and I won't be able to return this at the end of the semester," Social Work major Danielle Jones said, holding up a copy of her Pathways to Math Literacy book.

Textbooks are expensive. And the prices are going up at a remarkable pace.

According to a recent article in USA Today, textbook prices have risen 82 percent in the last decade alone.

The Huffington Post reported in January that educational book prices have outpaced increases in tuition, medical services and new home prices.

For some students, the skyrocketing prices have kept them from purchasing books they need.

"I need extra cash this semester to pay for housing and to try and help my mom

out with money. Last year I spent more than \$450 on books. This year I bought only two of the books I need," Garionte Williams, a second year student taking 16 credit hours said.

Williams plans on studying with used books from the

previous editions but are required every few years by professors.

"It's ridiculous that textbook prices could be so much. Our textbook for environmental biology is this little bitty paperback in black and white. It was \$35 when we adopted

adopting new editions every time publishers produce one. However, Social Science Department Chair Paul Sarantakos explained that this

struck between quality works and prices.

Young explained, "To support learning you need some sort of material. Saying 'there is no book, let's use Wikipedia' is no way to run an academic institution.

There is a value to peer reviewed, edited, quality volumes. So the question becomes 'How do you get those quality works in student's hands at a not-outrageous price point?'"

Young said that publishers have responded to student and faculty demands for lower prices in a couple of ways so far.

"Publishers have produced Jump Drives, where you've got the whole book on electronic media. This helps to knock down the price," Young stated.

There has also been a rise in demand for customized volumes of textbooks, according to Young. Teachers will buy textbooks which only include the sections they need and usually in soft-cover form.

Some savvy students have begun searching for cheaper places to purchase their required reading.

"This year I used Chegg.com to get all of my books. Instead of having to pay \$500 for books I only paid \$80. I needed the seventh edition of my LAS book and I got the fifth, but

See BOOKS on P. 5

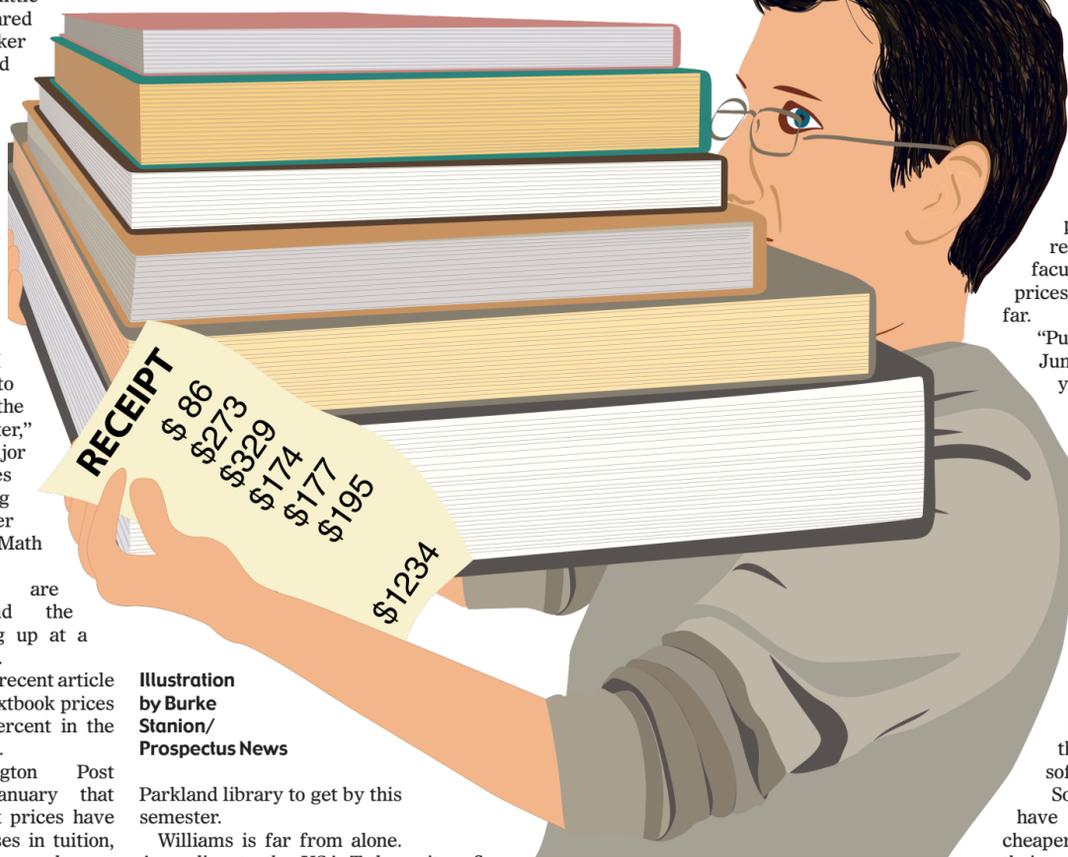


Illustration by Burke Stanion/  
Prospectus News

Parkland library to get by this semester.

Williams is far from alone. According to the USA Today article, about one in four first-year students do not purchase required academic materials because of cost.

Part of the reason for the rising cost of textbooks can be attributed to new editions, which may change little from

it five years ago. Now it is \$135 and it hasn't changed at all," Natural Science professor Heidi Leuszler said.

Professors at Parkland do have the option of using older editions of the text instead of

is not always easy because as the editions get older, it becomes harder to find enough of them for every student.

According to Vice President of Academic Services Dr. Kris Young, a balance must be

# Student receives International Scholarship

**PN** Ted Setterlund  
Staff Writer

There are several scholarships that students can apply for at Parkland College. One is the International Student Scholarship, which is one of the bigger and more popular scholarships available at Parkland.

For an international student going to Parkland College, the price of tuition is not cheap. While the average tuition for an in-district student is around \$2,000, international students' tuition fees can go up to around \$7,000.

Chemical Engineering major Binh Le was the winner of the 2012 scholarship, something that she always wanted to receive due to the outstanding tuition fees that she has to pay.

"I was so happy when I heard about this, and I just could not believe that I won, because this is a very big award for the international students. Not only do we have to pay out-of-district tuition, but we have to pay for other expenses too. This scholarship will allow me to pay

in-district tuition, since the tuition now is only a fourth of what we used to pay," Le said.

According to Le, in order to apply for the scholarship international students have to fill out the application, receive certain credit hours, acquire recommendations from three staff members at Parkland, as well as write an essay on why they want the scholarship. This method is similar to many other major scholarships at the school.

Le stated that anybody who is an international student should apply for the International Student Scholarship, as it will give them a chance to go to Parkland without having to pay the higher than average tuition rate.

One of the problems that some of the international students believe Parkland's international services has is the way students are grouped depending on what country they are from. One of the things that Le wants to do is find a way to bring all of the countries into one group, rather than

being sectioned off into different groups.

"Even though together they are international students, there is still a barrier between the countries at the school. So all Korean students are in one group, Chinese students are in another group, and so on. I want everybody to collaborate, and I would like to do something that would help all of the international students get together, no matter where they are from," Le explained.

Mathematics professor Omar Adawi was one of the teachers who recommended Le to get the scholarship.

"Binh Le is a conscientious, hard-working student and she works patiently when she tutors students in mathematics and chemistry until they understand the material," Adawi said.

English professor Sue Kuykendall also recommended Le for the scholarship.

"In the two classes that she took with me, Binh was not only a dedicated, responsible, and high-performing student but

also a positive influence on my other students and on the success of the classes as a whole. She has all the qualities, both intellectual and personal, of a successful student and future entrepreneur," Kuykendall explained.

"Binh has boundless energy and is above all a cheerful, happy, good-humored person; it is impossible not to be buoyed up in her presence. She seems to enjoy everything that she does, and even when she's tired, she finds it in herself to draw others into her enthusiasm and create an atmosphere of encouragement and support," Kuykendall continued.

Binh Le thanks everyone who recommended her for the scholarship, including Omar Adawi, Sue Kuykendall, Parkland College Planetarium Director David Leake, and all of her friends and family who supported her and helped her win the scholarship.

According to the school's international



Photo by Briana Kay Stodden/Prospectus News  
Parkland Engineering Student Binh Le

webpage, over 350 international students from over 50 countries go to Parkland College. All of the international students attending are eligible for the International Student

Scholarship, which only one person can receive. For more information about the International Center at Parkland College, visit <http://www.parkland.edu/international>.



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## Fact or Fiction?

Cattle is the oldest form of money.  
(Find the answer on page 5)

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# News

## Parkland Fall Convocation 2013



Photo by Makenzie Hryhorysak/Prospectus News  
Parkland Vice President Kris Young speaks to students and faculty at the Fall Convocation ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013.



Photo by Makenzie Hryhorysak/Prospectus News  
Students browse the booths of several student organizations featured at the Fall Convocation on Thursday Aug. 22, 2013.



Photo by Makenzie Hryhorysak/Prospectus News  
A free lunch was offered to students after the Fall Convocation ceremony on Thursday Aug. 22, 2013.



Photo by Makenzie Hryhorysak/Prospectus News  
Students and faculty gather in the Dodds Athletic Center for the annual Fall Convocation ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013.

### GLOBAL LENS 2013

**Shyamal Uncle Turns Off The Lights**  
dir. Suman Ghosh, India, 2012 • 65 minutes,  
Bengali, with English subtitles  
Thursday, September 5

**Cairo 678**  
dir. Mohamed Diab, Egypt, 2010 • 100 minutes,  
Arabic, with English subtitles  
Tuesday, September 10

**Life Kills Me (La Vida Me Mata)**  
dir. Sebastián Silva, Chile, 2007 • 92 minutes,  
Spanish, with English subtitles  
Thursday, September 19

**The Parade (Parada)**  
dir. Srđjan Dragojević, Serbia, 2011 • 115 minutes,  
Serbo-Croatian, with English subtitles  
Thursday, October 10

**The Fantastic World of Juan Orol**  
(El Fantástico Mundo De Juan Orol)  
dir. Sebastián del Amo, Mexico, 2012 • 90 minutes,  
Spanish, with English subtitles  
Tuesday, October 29

**About 111 Girls (Darbare 111 Dokhtar)**  
dir. Nahid Ghobadi and Bijan Zamanpira, Iraq, 2012 • 79 minutes,  
Farsi/Persian and Kurdish, with English subtitles  
Thursday, November 7

**Beijing Flickers (You-Zhong)**  
dir. Zhang Yuan, China, 2012 • 96 minutes,  
Mandarin, with English subtitles  
Thursday, December 12

All films and popcorn are FREE! • All shows begin at 6:30pm  
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# Lifestyle

## Tips and tricks to improve your memory

 **Naomi Leaning**  
Student Health 101

Have you ever been in this situation? You're sitting behind a desk and about to take the most crucial exam of your academic life (or at least that's what it feels like). As soon as you see the first question, your mind goes blank.

You probably know the answers to the questions; you just reviewed them last night. You know your brain is functioning, as you can instantly recall the menu items at your favorite restaurant. But you're struggling to remember what you studied, and it's frustrating.

This scenario might make you wonder: Why can I remember some things but not others? Well, here's the answer. There are two types of memory, long-term and short-term, and they are stored very differently in the brain.

### Short-Term Memory

No matter how briefly a memory lasts, it must be stored in your brain. You are temporarily recording the succession of events in your life. Dr. Jim Cherry, a psychology professor at Boston University in Massachusetts, explains that short-term memory is actually important any time you are thinking. "It's the same thing as what's called working memory, which is activated when you [do things like] plan, work on a task, or simply pull up old memories and think about them," he says.

According to the National Institutes of Health, short-term memory has a storage capacity of about seven items and each lasts only a few dozen seconds.

Imagine that you're starting a new internship or job, and you're introduced to everyone you'll work with. You probably shake everyone's hands, and then promptly forget who's who. In a recent Student Health 101 survey, more than 20 percent of respondents said that while they can remember facts and figures, they have trouble with people and places. Why might that be?

Though you may register the face of someone you pass on the street, or an address you overhear someone giving out, this information quickly disappears. That is, unless you make a conscious effort to retain it, in which case you can keep the piece of information in your short-term memory for a longer period of time. For example, you can repeat a telephone number over and over



Illustration by Rick Nease/Detroit Free Press

again, or use a "memory trick," like setting the number to a tune.

### Long-Term Memory

While short-term memories last only for about a minute, your brain's capacity to store long-term memories is unlimited. Once you commit something to long-term memory, it can last anywhere from days to months to years—or even for your lifetime.

Long-term memory stores all the significant events in your life, and also allows you to retain things like the meaning of words and the physical skills you've learned. The reasons for this originate on the cellular level. Dr. Howard

Eichenbaum, also a psychology professor at Boston University, explains, "Long-term memory requires brain cells [to make] new proteins. Conversely, in short-term memory, no new proteins are made. [This is a] key difference."

There are several factors that influence the ease with which you retrieve long-term memories. For example:

How long an event has been stored in your memory

The last time you recalled the information

Whether the memory is unique

If the information resembles a current event in your life

### Converting Short-Term Memories to Long-Term

Here are some tips for implanting new information in your brain for the long haul—handy when preparing for tests:

Revisit and recite information periodically over a lengthy period of time. Repetitions over a brief period will maintain the information only in your short-term memory.

Decrease distractions and clear your mind before attempting to memorize anything.

Divide and memorize information in small, distinct parts. This is easier than trying to absorb everything at

once.

### Improving Your Memory

35 percent of Student Health 101 survey respondents said they remember all types of things very easily. Not everyone is gifted with a good memory, but there are many things you can do to improve your mental performance. It's important to remember that the brain is an organ that in some ways is like a muscle. A strong memory depends on the health and vitality of your whole body, and exercising your brain regularly.

Here are a few tips to help strengthen your brain:

#### Try Something New

It's important to challenge your brain by learning novel tasks and doing things you've never done before. For example, enroll in a music class, try your hand at sculpting, or even learn a new dance. Start a new hobby or learn a foreign language. (As a bonus, these will look great on your résumé.)

#### Exercise Your Brain

Reading, writing, and playing cards all offer your mind a chance to flex.

#### Manage Your Stress

Speaking of which, when you're under a lot of pressure, your brain may not function optimally. According to the UWellness program at the University of Washington in Seattle, long periods of stress can "put you at increased risk [for] numerous health problems, including memory impairment."

Allow yourself the time necessary to condense information and experiences, and you'll remember more.

#### Take Action!

Use "tricks" such as mnemonics to help you recall information.

Review information multiple times, in small chunks.

Feed your brain with healthy foods, such as lean proteins and fresh vegetables.

Grab a friend and play brain-strengthening games.

Make time in your schedule for physical activity and plenty of sleep.

Use creative challenges to flex your brain.

Students can access the Parkland College Student Health 101 magazine online at <http://readsh101.com/parkland.html>. Copyright 2013 Student Health 101

# Have you seen us online?

The screenshot shows the Prospectus News website interface. At the top, it says "Prospectus News" with the date "Wednesday, July 27, 2011" and "Student produced since 1969". Below the header is a navigation menu with options like Home, News, Features, Entertainment, Lifestyle, Opinions, Sports, Advertising, and Print. There is also a search bar. The main content area is divided into sections: "Top Stories" with articles like "Parkland a possibility for closed aviation program", "How to end your summer productively", "Langendorf wins state faculty member award", and "Capital funding release announced". There are also advertisements for Wells Fargo and a "Log In" form with fields for email and password.

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Also on   

# Opinions

## Benefits of taking nonwestern and literature classes

**Matthew Jackson**  
Staff Writer

Despite Humanities and Fine Arts are classes that some students feel they are forced to take and would be a presumably popular course for general education credits, enrollment numbers in these classes are down.

Literature program director and English teacher Jeffery Hickman said that due to Humanities and Fine Arts requirements of universities around Illinois being reduced, schools are seeing a drop in student enrollment in these classes, which include literature and nonwestern courses.

These classes can help students establish a view of a diverse world, throughout the globe, the community, and even in their college.

The world is a very unique place, and it is important for students to be able to acknowledge these differences.

Similarly, students can learn a lot about a person or group of people by their writing. Looking at nonfiction literature shows students what people are thinking about during the time they were alive. This knowledge helps students learn about cultures, peoples, and locations.

Hickman said that teachers need to let students know about all the courses that are available, such as poetry, fiction, and drama. There are also courses based on themes such as Nonwestern Literature and African American Literature.

Associate professor of Humanities Amber Landis, who has been teaching for twenty years, stated that it is important to learn about global

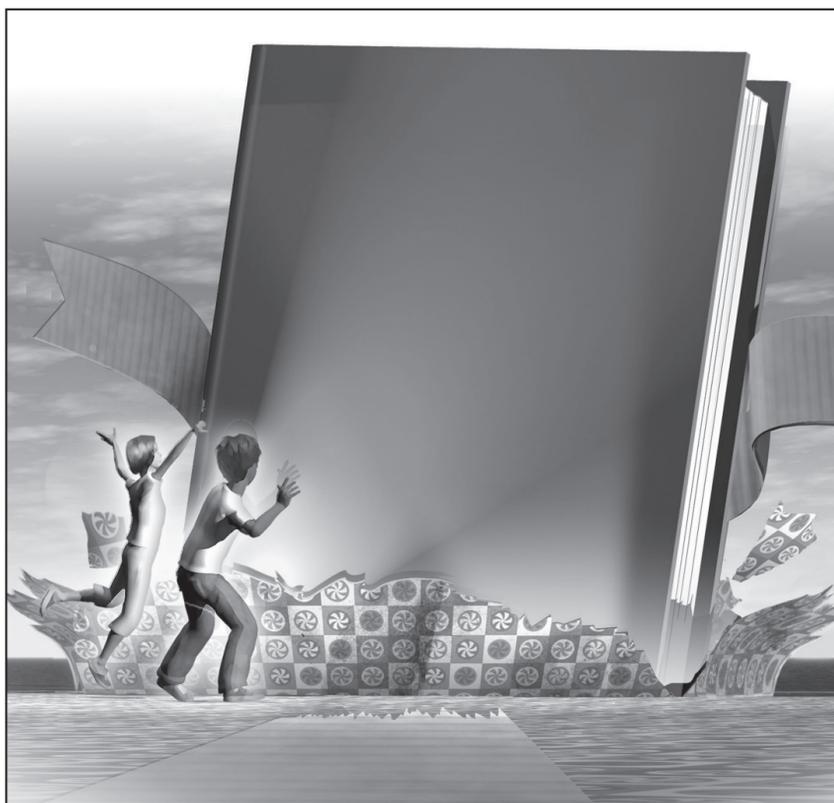


Illustration by Rick Nease/MCT

culture.

"When people become lit majors they major in English or British lit. I chose nonwestern lit because I wanted to read about different cultures," Landis explained.

Landis teaches a class that combines both nonwestern courses with literature classes. It is known as Introduction to Nonwestern lit, or LIT 146.

"The course is designed to give students exposure to works not written in English or written in North America or Europe. It will teach cultural values and attitudes from a diverse perspective," Landis

said.

Landis achieved this last spring semester by using a wide variety of short stories along with a Nigerian book titled "Half a Yellow Sun." Landis also invited Nigerian councilor Joe Omo-Osagie to her classes to talk and answer students' questions.

"Based on the course description, I would most definitely be interested in this class. Being born in Mexico, I find that it is important to see the different cultural values that others possess and be able to distinguish differences between them," Nursing major

Karina Salinas said.

"While I have not yet taken either type of class, I think that Nonwestern classes are a great way to obtain knowledge on information that you otherwise would not get. Literature classes have always been interesting to me because the readings that are discussed contain many different areas of history, but also provide a wide array of topics that can be discussed," Salinas continued.

Hickman agrees that literature classes are a great way for students to expand their global knowledge and

become familiar with other peoples, cultures, and customs.

"Nonwestern lit is a wonderful class. When we begin to study lit we study the best of literature, from people such as Shakespeare, and other British and American writers. Through the years we have expanded to other cultures and other peoples that are often a lot less known. Nonwestern lit, as with any lit class, helps us to see the world through others eyes. We see language being used as an art," Hickman said.

Literature and Nonwestern courses are courses that students do not have to be afraid of taking. While they may sound daunting, many teachers encourage students to sign up for these classes with an open mind.

This is because these classes can increase a student's global awareness and be ultimately beneficial to a student once they finish the course.

"Students should not be afraid of reading. Taking a lit course could be like a book club where everyone can share their ideas, even if they liked the text or not," Landis concluded.

Although many students have already begun their fall semester and are not looking to add any more classes to their work schedule, spring semester provides a great opportunity for students to expand their horizons and enroll in a literature course.

Global awareness is beneficial to students, and literature and nonwestern courses can help students achieve a broader view of the world around them, even if it means simply a different perspective of their own back yard.

## Obama's college ratings plan could backfire

**Los Angeles Times**

The United States didn't develop its great universities by reducing higher education to equations of graduation rates and job placement. Yet on Thursday, the Obama administration revealed a plan that would push colleges in that very direction and could harm some of the students the president most wants to help.

The president's proposal to make higher education "a better bargain" includes some strong elements, especially a public rating system for colleges that will help students make thoughtful choices about which schools are best for them. By using the system, families will have access to clear information, consistent from school to school, about the full costs, availability of financial aid, graduation rates and the earnings of alumni. They'll discover that a higher tuition price isn't necessarily the best indicator of career success.

The ratings might persuade colleges to hold the line on prices as newly informed families are empowered to make cost-benefit decisions. Right now, people can make a better-informed consumer decision about a \$20 coffee maker than a \$200,000 college education.

Where the president's proposal veers into reductionism, though, is by tying the availability of financial aid to those ratings. Students would find federal

financial help such as Pell grants easier to obtain at schools with higher graduation rates and postgraduate salaries, among other factors. The president also will pressure states to tie their funding of public colleges and universities to the ratings. Gov. Jerry Brown proposed something like that for California's four-year college systems, a destructive idea that was fortunately squashed in the Legislature.

Such financial schemes could backfire on students who already face the biggest obstacles to a college education. It's not hard for schools to lower their dropout rates. The cheap and easy way to accomplish this is by accepting the students most likely to graduate — the demographics of students at high risk of dropping out are well known — and lowering academic standards so that almost no one flunks. That's not good for anyone.

The Times recently

Photo by MCT



published a profile of Kashawn Campbell, a motivated, hardworking student at UC Berkeley. Campbell is a graduate of Los Angeles' Jefferson High, a school with abysmal test scores and lower standards than schools in more affluent areas. Despite his high grades at Jefferson, Campbell has been struggling to hold on academically in college. We're cheering for him. But under Obama's blueprint, colleges would receive higher ratings — and more financial assistance — if they didn't give students like Campbell a shot at their dream. That's not a "better bargain" for the nation's hopeful students.

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- All submissions must also include up to date contact information.

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Did you know?

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



# BOOKS

continued from page 1

there is only one article missing so my teacher said the book was fine," Psychology major Bronti Rush-Fox said.

Some faculty members at Parkland have helped students as well.

On top of putting her required textbooks on reserve in the Parkland library, Leuszler has taught a course that uses tablets in place of traditional paper textbooks in order to save students money. She partnered with another Parkland professor two years ago and created a course called How Things Work. The environmentally oriented course gave every student an iPad to use in place of a textbook.

"We wanted the course to have a low environmental impact, but we also wanted it to be a totally free for the students. I found an open source textbook but it wasn't quite ready so we used downloaded readings. There were some problems initially, and it was an experiment, but I think the students really enjoyed it," Leuszler said.

For many students the price of books can be too much, and the continual increase can cause many students to begin looking for other ways to get their materials without also hurting their wallets.

Students can check with their professors for alternative versions of the required text, or visit the library to see if there are used versions students can use.

# How Bitcoin works

An introduction to Bitcoin, an electronic cash system developed in 2008:



### What is Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is an online currency that can be exchanged for goods and services at places that accept it or converted to other currencies via a variety of online exchanges; Bitcoin's monetary system runs on a network of its users' computers via peer-to-peer software; Bitcoin allows direct payment between two parties without going through a bank, credit card company or other financial institution; it is a decentralized and unregulated monetary system with no virtual Federal Reserve or other centralized bank



### Advantages

Because there is no middleman such as a bank, there are almost no transaction fees or limitations; large amounts can be transferred quickly; this cuts time and money when dealing with foreign transactions; also, the system safeguards privacy; transactions are anonymous and untraceable; however, this feature has attracted criminals to use the system

### Disadvantages

The system can be volatile, with large fluctuations in the value of Bitcoin; all transactions are irreversible; refunds can only be done by the person receiving the funds, if willing; early adopters have reaped greater rewards than those now joining



### How to begin

You first need to set up a virtual "wallet" on your computer or mobile device; this is free open-source software that you can download from www.bitcoin.org; this wallet acts much like personal finance software to keep track of your Bitcoin balance and transactions; users should treat their virtual wallet like a real one; your virtual wallet contains all your Bitcoin funds, transactions and security keys, so you will need a backup in case of computer failure or other accidents

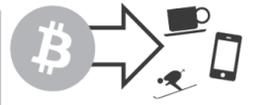


### Getting Bitcoins

#### There are two ways to earn Bitcoins

By using real money: You can buy Bitcoins by using real money at online payment companies or exchanges; as of July 31, one Bitcoin was worth roughly \$95

By "mining": New Bitcoins can only be minted, or "mined," by advanced Bitcoin users called miners; miners are given a complex mathematical puzzle, which they can only solve with the help of special mining software; once a miner believes he has solved a puzzle, a message goes out to the entire network; if other users agree, a new Bitcoin is added to a public ledger; the successful miner is then awarded a bit of the new Bitcoin for his trouble



### Using Bitcoins

Bitcoins can be used to buy any goods or services, if the vendor will accept them; you can send or receive Bitcoins via your wallet application; for each transaction, a unique electronic signature is added for security; the transaction is verified by a miner and permanently stored throughout the Bitcoin network

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# Puzzles & Comics

Bliss



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## Sudoku (Intermediate)

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

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## Imps! by Jeff Harris



## GREEN APPLES by Jeff Harris



## Best in Show



xkcd.com

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**PROs:** CONVENIENT USEFUL  
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## The TV Crossword

By Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- Mama who sang with the Papas
  - Mercury and Saturn
  - "What a tragedy"
  - Mercury or Saturn
  - Picnic spot
  - Revise, as text
  - Mine car
  - Pincushion alternative
  - Maternally related
  - Bad web designer's product?
  - Extreme anger
  - Boy
  - Hanoi holiday
  - Sandwich shop letters
  - Cut companion
  - Heavy herbivore
  - Greek goddess of the dawn
  - Coll. dorm mentors
  - Essen-to-Leipzig direction
  - Food for Fido
  - Start the service ceremonially?
  - "Roger that"
  - Keats wrote one to a nightingale
  - Funnyman Caesar
  - Prefix with duct
  - Melbourne marsupial
  - Discourage
  - Get hitched
  - Shimon Peres's land: Abbr.
  - Cosmo, e.g.
  - Delighted utterance
  - Dieter's hope when entering the brewpub?
  - Shoot for
  - Like some support
  - Crack pilots
  - Flambé
  - Laos location
  - Unlike a dead end, briefly
  - Spy mission, in brief
  - Cornerstone datum
  - Boo relative

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14				15				16							
17				18				19							
20				21				22							
23				24				25			26	27			
28			29			30	31				32				
			33			34		35			36				
			37	38				39			40				
41						42			43						
44				45				46		47	48	49	50		
51				52				53	54			55			
				56				57				58		59	
60								61				62			
63								64				65			
66								67				68			

By Amy Johnson

7/2/13

### DOWN

- It makes a feline frisky
- Roman goddess of the dawn
- Declares
- Dream-inducing "Brave New World" drug
- Puccini work
- Like slasher films, typically
- Champagne designation
- Very jumpy
- Deals with
- Present opening?
- "Click It or Ticket" device
- Range playmate of song
- JFK's predecessor
- Profess one's innocence, perhaps
- Grapevine starters?
- Chinese menu surname
- Cafeteria convenience
- Monopoly miniature
- "Just Do It" logo

### Monday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	M		A	L	K	A	L	I		K	I	N	G			
A	S	I		R	A	I	N	O	N		O	N	E	A			
B	A	C	K	E	D	D	O	W	N		S	C	O	T			
S	P	A	N	N	E	D		E	T	H	A	N	E				
				O	A	S	I	S		R	U	E					
B	L	O	C	S				E	L	K		B	R	A	N	D	
R	O	C	K					S	P	I	N	E		P	I	E	R
A	U	T	O					H	O	P	O	N		I	O	W	A
D	I	E	U					H	O	S	T	S		C	L	E	F
S	E	T	T	O				L	I	T		S	K	I	R	T	
								P	A	C		N	Y	T	O	L	
K	P	D	U	T							P	U	B	E	R	T	Y
N	O	U	N					C	A	N	I	B	E	S	U	R	E
O	P	E	C					L	O	A	N	E	R		M	I	L
B	E	T	H					E	L	M	E	R	S		P	O	P

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# Sports

## With new coach, Cobras baseball ready to play

**Alex Wallner**  
Sports Writer

Baseball is back and Parkland looks to make sure that they have an outstanding season with their new hire of former Parkland player, Dave Garcia.

The baseball team opens up action September 5, 2013 against Lincoln College. This will be the first of sixteen Fall League games that the Cobras will compete in.

Overall, Garcia is ready for the season to begin and the fall is a good place to see which players will stand out the most.

"Our expectations for the fall are that we are trying to get guys from different backgrounds and areas to play together as one team. We want to introduce our bunt coverages, our first and third plays and really just lock down our fundamentals," Garcia explained.

"A lot of these guys are coming in trying to earn a spot and by the end we will know who are top guys are and we want to get them exposed, get them in front of colleges and especially our sophomores; we want to get them exposed so we can get them signed," Garcia continued.

The fall schedule includes some key games on September 10 against Danville Area in Danville, Lincoln College once again at home on September 17, Lincoln Land on September 22 at Illinois State University, Heartland at home on September 24 and Lake Land in Mattoon on October 9.

All the games mentioned



New Cobras baseball Head Coach Dave Garcia.

Photo by Briana Kay Stodden/Prospectus News

are key conference opponents for the Cobras, so facing them early really will tell how the team could fair against them come spring.

The loss of former Head Coach Matt Kennedy will be a tough one to replace. Kennedy, who became Assistant Coach at High Point University in North Carolina, was Head Coach for multiple seasons.

Kennedy earned many accomplishments, one being the 2009 NJCAA Division Two World Series, which really propelled his stock immensely.

Kennedy will be missed at the program; however his new Division One NCAA job provides him with a great opportunity to excel and would be a bad choice to pass up.

What made Garcia the right

man for the job? How did he stand out from all the other candidates?

"We had over forty applicants for the position from various backgrounds, from high school to college to people who have coached the junior college level, but throughout the process Dave's enthusiasm and desire to be here at Parkland really came

through and I really thought he had prepared himself for this job," Athletic Director Rod Lovett said.

Lovett continued, "He's been a high school coach and a high school athletic director and he got second in the State Tournament this year and then the last four or five years, he served as a hitting coach at the minor league level and I

thought he was the right fit for where we needed to go with the program at this time."

Garcia's baseball background is very successful. Garcia was a hitting coach for the Joliet Slammers of the Independent Frontier League after previously working for the River City Rascals for three seasons as their hitting and bench coach.

Garcia was the Head Coach and Athletic Director at Putnam County High School for eight years leading the school to two State Finals (2013, 2008) where he compiled a record of 124 and 52 over that time.

Kennedy is a coach that will be missed as a part of the program. Especially for returners, who learned a lot from him, changing from one coach to the next can be a difficult task to accomplish.

"My reaction on Coach Kennedy was surprising, but I'm glad he got that job. It's absolutely a no brainer opportunity," Parkland student Marvin Campos said.

Usually players can adapt well to change. A coaching change, although difficult at times, can bring more fire out in a player to prove to a new coach that they are as good as they were recruited for.

It will be an interesting season, but the baseball program at Parkland is strong and hopefully Garcia can bring even more success back to the college's rich history.

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