

Parkland College

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Prospectus 2016

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Parkland surgical technology on cutting edge



Photo by Scott Wells | The Prospectus

Students Alexa Stidham (L) and Tanya Miner (R) participate in a mock-up surgical procedure on Sept. 23, 2016 in Parkland's L-Wing.

Peter Floess
Staff Writer

Surgical technologists are responsible for ensuring that medical operating procedures are safe and effective. There are many facets to their job. They are in charge of making sure that the surgical equipment is functioning correctly. During the operation, they pass the surgical equipment to the surgeon, who is their direct boss. They maximize safety and the efficiency of the operation, which keeps costs down.

Carolyn Ragsdale, the director of Parkland's surgical technology program, says surgical technology is different from other careers in the health profession, because surgical technologists do not specialize in certain areas of human anatomy; instead surgical technologists are supposed to have a workable knowledge of the entire body. As such, surg-tech students take many anatomy and physiology classes.

Ragsdale says becoming a surgical

technologist is a good position, "a fast paced environment that is always changing."

Ragsdale believes that someone who is in the field of surgical technology "has to work well with a team of people, they have to be willing to work off hours on call," and to be able to "always think on [their] feet."

Ragsdale believes that the field of surgical technology has a lot of job security. She says there are many full-time jobs that come with full benefits.

Ragsdale believes that the advantage of the Parkland program, when compared to other surgical technology programs at other colleges, is the community's commitment to helping Parkland's surg-tech students gain their footing in the field.

"[W]e have a group of committed surgical technologists, nurses, and surgeons at area hospitals that mentor and help train our students," she said. "Parkland students are able to be involved in the highest level of surgical cases giving

them an advantage over other programs."

Ragsdale is proud that in the 2015-16 academic year, 100 percent of Parkland students passed the national board exam to become surgical technologists. Nationally the average of passing the exam is 70 percent.

Amy Pratt is an alumna of the Parkland surg-tech program. She now works as a surgical technologist in cardiac surgery at the Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Pratt describes a typical day for her in surg-tech. She says she works with a cardiac surgeon who sees "complex" cases sent from across the country, which can mean a simple surgery could develop complications in the blink of an eye.

"At this time, I am usually asking the nurse a million questions about the patient," Pratt said. "Understanding the history and physical (health) of the patient beforehand can save a lot of frustration for the nurse, surgeon and myself later. During

this time, I am thinking about every step of the operation and what we need. I also think about what could possibly go wrong and how to solve those problems."

Pratt says she begins her workday by making certain the proper equipment is prepared for the first surgery of her shift. She takes count of everything to be used in the operation and ensures it is all sterilized.

Once the operation begins, her role changes.

"For the next few hours I watch, listen, and anticipate every move the surgeon will make," Pratt said. "All the while I am thinking about what could go wrong during the surgery, making sure no one touches my stuff and everyone in the room is on the same page with what is going on with the patient."

Leslie Zapf, also a Parkland surg-tech graduate, works as a surgical technologist in cardiac surgery at the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. She describes her job as very similar to Pratt's.

"My job is to set up the sterile field

for surgery, and in addition to that I grab any extra items that may be required based on surgeon preference," Zapf said. "I then assist the surgeon through the procedure. I hand any and every instrument used during the case which means I must be knowledgeable about the procedure."

Surg-tech can be a good stepping stone to careers in other areas of the health profession.

Shawna Waterstradt, who is a certified registered nurse anesthetist, says going through the Parkland program and working as a surgical technologist for 20 years, including 15 years teaching at Parkland, gave her a "head start in healthcare and the confidence to go back to school."

"I worked as a tech while going to nursing school," Waterstradt said. "I'm proud to say I started out [in] surgical tech."

HUMANS OF PARKLAND

Michelle Wright



Photo by Scott Wells | The Prospectus

Scott Wells
Staff Writer

Photography major Michelle Wright found herself at an interesting crossroad in life a few years back. One day, the mother of three realized that her children weren't too far away from completing their high school years, and for her that posed somewhat of a problem.

"I could not have my kids graduate before I did," she said.

Wright grew up in a small town near Peoria before moving with her family to Normal just prior to her freshman year in high school. By the time she was a junior, Wright dropped out for personal reasons.

While it isn't a decision she regrets, throughout her adult years she often felt as though she was missing something, so at 35 Wright decided it was time to get her GED.

"Getting my GED at the age of 35 was out of exhaustion," Wright said. "I was tired of lying to employers, tired of feeling like I was not good enough to even graduate from high school."

Soon after earning her GED, Wright realized that she hadn't just completed something, but rather she had just started something new. Before long, she had enrolled at Parkland and began her pursuit of a degree in fine arts.

"My major at Parkland is photography," she said. "I think I chose me. Everywhere I look, I see a picture."

Wright's studies have become a new passion for her. When she isn't busy being a wife and mother, or putting in the hours at her job, Wright finds her peace in her art.

"I really enjoy still-life photography," she said. "My passion is in the darkroom though. The art does not stop at the click of a button; it takes a lot of skill, practice and trial and error to get a good print in the darkroom."

SEE HUMANS PAGE 4

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Fact or Fiction

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NEWS

Police: 5 shot, 1 dead, after fight at Illinois campus party

DAVID MERCER
Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP) — One man was killed and four other people were wounded in a pair of shootings early Sunday, including one that happened on the University of Illinois campus.

Police believe the two shootings in the eastern Illinois city of Champaign may be related. They say the first apparently stemmed from an argument shortly after midnight at an apartment party on Green Street, the commercial heart of the campus.

“Our preliminary investigation completely points to an argument taking place at the party and the argument spilled out into

the street and that’s when a fight occurred,” Champaign police spokeswoman LaEisha Meaderds said, adding the reasons for the fight aren’t clear yet.

Shots were fired as the fight escalated, striking four people, she said.

One of those shot, 22-year-old George Korchev, was killed, Meaderds said. She said Korchev, who was from the Chicago suburb of Mundelein, wasn’t involved in the fight and wasn’t a University of Illinois student. He just happened to be walking by when the shots were fired. The other three were taken to a hospital for treatment of what police called non-critical gunshot wounds.

Less than half an hour later,

police received a report of another shooting a few blocks west of campus. Officers found a victim, who was taken to a hospital and treated for a non-critical wound. Police later said that three of the four surviving victims were discharged from the hospital. The fourth remains in the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Police are searching for a suspect or suspects in the shootings and for the driver of a vehicle that struck someone who was running away from the gunfire at the first scene. That person’s injuries were minor.

It isn’t clear how many people were at the party because many ran when the gunfire began, Meaderds said. Police are hoping to



Photo by Holly Hart | The News Gazette via AP
Champaign police man the perimeter of a shooting near the University of Illinois campus, in Champaign, Ill., on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016. One man was killed and four other people were wounded in a pair of shootings early Sunday, including one that happened on the University of Illinois campus.

find and speak to as many as possible.

Champaign Mayor Deborah Frank Feinen said in a statement Sunday that

city and university police were working together to aggressively pursue all leads.

Food pantry helps Parkland students

Rachael Mowrer
Staff Writer

For the last three years, the Parkland Food Pantry has offered a very important service on campus—providing food for those in need.

The food pantry is open to the disabled, veterans, unemployed, underemployed, homeless, single parents, and students, etc., to help them get through the month without food insecurity.

The pantry located on campus in building S, and they are open the first and third Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. of every month and every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. You have the option of going up to two

times a month. If you work during these days, Wesley Food Pantry in Urbana is open every third Thursday from 5-7:30 p.m.

Wesley Chapel opened a food pantry in 2006 to ease the number of people with food insecurities in Urbana. Eventually, in 2013, they extended to Parkland to serve the people of Champaign. Over the years, more than 1,500 students from Parkland and the University of Illinois have volunteered to serve those less fortunate than themselves.

Wesley food pantry helps around 1,000 people per month, and the Parkland pantry helps more than 300 people.

Over 16 percent of the people in Champaign County suffer from the insecurity of not knowing when your next meal will be.

That’s roughly 38,900 people just in Champaign alone. If you are going to come and get food all you need is to bring your ID, preferably your student ID if you are going to go to the Parkland Pantry. Check the Wesley Food Pantry website to see if you qualify for assistance. If you do, you’ll get a portion of nutritional food that will help you get through the rest of the month.

One woman who utilizes the services says she’s grateful for the food pantry. “My husband and I separated

three months ago. Ever since, I’ve been struggling to pay all of my bills. Getting supplies from here takes a lot of stress off of me.”

Even if you can’t leave your home, have work or don’t speak English well, you could still get help from the food pantry. Someone else can go for you and there are people of all different backgrounds working there who will make accommodations to make it easier for you to communicate with one another.

If you’re interested in volunteering, you can sign up at Wesley Food Pantry’s website. Duties include unloading food from trucks if you work on delivery day, opening pallets of food,

assisting people with loading their cart, and helping people bring their bags to their car. If you know Spanish or sign language, you may be asked to translate or to work with people who don’t understand English. You can also help out by donating money to the Wesley food pantry online.

“We typically see around 15 families a day” says Del Jacobs, a parkland student who volunteers often. “We could use all the help we can get!”

Wesley and Parkland Food Pantry respect the privacy of those who use the service, therefore, information is kept confidential and not shared.

People around the world react to first Trump-Clinton debate

The Associated Press

Views from around the world on Monday’s first U.S. presidential debate between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump:

AUSTRALIA

RICHARD MCCONOCHIE watched the debate on a big screen in a Canberra pub and said, “To me Trump aced it.”

“He came across as a man who could control himself. They said Trump’s ignorant of the issues. I think he proved that he had at least a working handle on most of the stuff he was talking about.”

“I think he’ll swing a lot of Americans over to Trump just by proving that he is not the sort of unstable, dangerous lunatic that he’s painted to be,” McConochie said. “I don’t see that Trump would be any more incompetent than Clinton.”

MILTON GAN, a Sydney-based photographer, said it seemed like Trump was trying to rein in his temper for the first 15 minutes, then went off the rails.

“He started interrupting Clinton, he started interrupting (moderator) Lester (Holt) and he started steamrolling. And you could see he was just getting really irate about everything,” Gan said.

“The most ridiculous thing was at the end when he said he had the better temperament to be president,” Gan said, laughing. “It was just hilarious.”

Clinton came off prepared, confident and composed, Gan said: “Obviously, she’s done her prep and she’s got so much experience in politics and I think that really showed.”

NIGERIA

TIMI SOLEYE, an energy executive, stayed up to watch the debate in the middle of the night at his home in Lagos, Africa’s most populous city.

“Clinton has decent policies, I wished she should talk about them and just make her points,” he said. “Attempts to ridicule and characterize Trump policies were distracting in the beginning. And he looked dangerously reasonable at the beginning, but of course he veered off into his trademark semi-unreasonableness.”

Soleye described himself as conservative, but he called Trump’s characterization of world economics as a zero-sum game in which America must crush other countries to succeed “disheartening.”

“I sincerely hope he doesn’t win,” he said. “It’s simply too risky. The man seems unhinged sometimes.”

IVORY COAST

VALERY AKPOLE KOFFI, a customer service representative in Abidjan, thought Trump did a good job of coming across as less aggressive and more precise in his responses.

“He took the lead on foreign affairs, condemning the U.S. interventions in Iraq and Libya,” Koffi said. “He

also was reassuring on the issues of employment and tax relief in order to give back hope to Americans.”

CHINA

WANG PEI, a graduate student in communications studies, watched the debate from a cafe in Beijing and said he thought Clinton carried herself better.

“I personally like Trump’s character and the feeling that he’s a fighter,” Wang said. “But from today’s performance, I think Clinton was more like a mature politician and Trump looked a bit like a misfit in this kind of setting.”

BRITAIN

TIM STANLEY, a columnist for Britain’s conservative Daily Telegraph, said in his column Tuesday that Trump won the debate but may lose the election. He said Trump repeated many of his outrageous campaign statements and defended his earlier questions about whether President Barack Obama was really born in the U.S., but they played well in a debate that should be judged as reality TV.

He said Trump said everything that people who hate Clinton have wanted to say for 30 years.

“In terms of reality TV, he did well,” Stanley wrote. “He harassed, he shouted, he taunted, he talked over. And Clinton let him do it.”

But he said Trump said



Photos by David Goldman | AP

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton (L) answers a question during the presidential debate. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump (R) listens to an answer at the presidential debate.

nothing during the debate to win over non-whites and female voters and did not act particularly presidential.

GERMANY

SIGMAR GABRIEL, German vice chancellor and head of the Social Democratic Party, told daily newspaper Bild on Tuesday morning that Clinton was the clear winner and that Trump’s performance showed striking weaknesses.

“Trump didn’t have a plan. Neither for the U.S. nor for the big foreign policy challenges,” Gabriel said. “Clinton convinced with competence and clarity. It was a clear victory for her.”

LIBERIA

In this West African country founded by freed black slaves repatriated from the United States in the 19th century, radio talk

shows carried lively post-debate discussions.

“With his temperament, America cannot entrust Donald Trump with nuclear weapons,” said DAVID TARGBEH, the co-host of the “New Dawn” show. He accused Trump of displaying “his usual racist posture.”

JUSU FREEMAN, who phoned into the program, said Trump stands a chance because “America does not need a female president.”

But Targbeh countered that, saying: “People made a similar insinuation that America was not ready for a black president. At the end of the day, Barack Obama emerged victorious.”

JAPAN

NARUSHIGE MICHISHITA, a Japanese analyst, said it was in some

OPINIONS

The Pledge, the national anthem, patriotism

Matt Moss
Editor

If memory serves me, during my senior year of high school there was an incident of a student who refused to stand for the morning Pledge of Allegiance.

The teacher requested the student change her stance—quite literally, I suppose. The student, albeit in a not-so-cordial fashion, made clear her intention to remain seated.

The teacher then threatened disciplinary action. This was a mistake.

High schoolers being high schoolers, word spread around the school pretty quickly. Reportedly, the teacher got in some hot water with the student's parents and, subsequently, the administration. Everything went on as normal; the teacher kept teaching and the student kept student-ing, but it was a risky move for the teacher to make.

In 1943, two students attending a Charleston, W.Va., high school opted out of saying the Pledge under the instruction of their father. Marie and Gathie Barnett were Jehovah's Witnesses, as was their father. This religion bars its members from exalting images that represent ideas, a literal interpretation of one of the Ten Commandments as spelled out in Exodus: "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the Earth below [...] You shall not bow down to them or worship them."

The Bernetts were expelled from the grounds of insubordination, though their parents continued to send them to school each morning just to have them sent back home.

Step back to 1940, when the Supreme Court ruled in *Minersville School District v. Gobitis* with an 8-1 decision that schools could in fact force students, regardless of religion, to not only stand for the Pledge, but also recite it

and salute the flag.

Independent Justice Felix Frankfurter said the ruling was in the support of the country's security and not a smack down of religious freedoms.

"National unity is the basis of national security," Frankfurter wrote. "Conscientious scruples have not [...] relieved the individual from obedience to a general law not aimed at the promotion or restriction of religious beliefs."

This case was in response to American Jehovah's Witnesses opting out of the Pledge in solidarity with members of their religion in Germany being made prisoners and thrown into prison camps for not saluting the Nazi flag.

It wasn't just Jehovah's Witnesses who took issue with the Pledge before the 1940 ruling. The prescribed pledge salute prior to the beginning of 1943 was known as the Bellarmy salute, which had reciters hold their right arm up and outward, stiff, at about 30 degrees above parallel to the ground. Does this sound familiar? The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and the Parent and Teachers Association, raised a fuss about this style of salute in response to its similarities with the salute used by German and Italian fascists.

Just three years later, the Supreme Court—with seven of the same members as 1940's court—in a 6-3 decision overturned its previous ruling, citing the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment.

Democrat Robert Jackson, a justice who had ascended to the Supreme Court only two years prior, wrote the majority opinion for this landmark ruling, saying the Bill of Rights exists to protect American citizens from rulings like the 1940 case and the overreaching of a potentially-oppressive majority in the populace.

"One's right to life, liberty, and property, to free speech, a free press, freedom of

worship and assembly, and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections," Jackson said.

Since 1943, this has not changed. West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette made it so educational institutions could no force their students to stand for the Pledge or salute the flag. I guess that teacher at my high school didn't get the memo.

Now, we are facing the same issue with the national anthem. San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick generated quite the controversy when he opted to not stand for The Star-Spangled Banner during the NFL preseason. He says he is doing so to protest "[oppression of] black people and people of color," specifically police brutality and the repeated shootings of often-unarmed blacks by officers. He says the flag does not represent what America is supposed to stand for.

A poll earlier this month by E-Poll Marketing Research found that Kaepernick was the most disliked player in the entire National Football League; that's ahead of the players in trouble for accusations of sexual assault, violence against women, so on and so forth.

Kaepernick's actions have garnered responses from people on both sides of the issue. In schools and professional teams across the nation, athletes who have followed Kaepernick's example are now kneeling instead of standing when the national anthem plays.

However, unlike the Pledge of Allegiance, there has not been a Supreme Court case on the matter. So, standing for the national anthem is purely tradition. As such, there are widely differing views on the matter.

Many of those who do not support Kaepernick are saying it is disrespectful to U.S. military servicemen and veterans. Tell that to the legends of veterans voicing

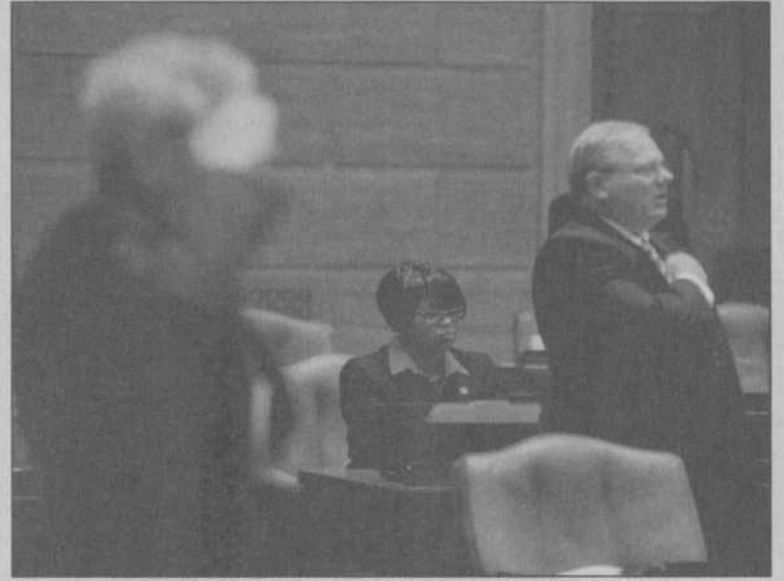


Photo by Julie Smith | News Tribune via AP
Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, D-St. Louis, chose to remain seated as the Pledge of Allegiance was recited Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016, in the Missouri Senate chambers. Legislators bodies met in their respective Capitol chambers in an attempt to override Gov. Jay Nixon's veto of several pieces of legislation.

support for him, with the hashtag

'VeteransForKaepernick' trending on Twitter for over half a month.

I have a few veteran friends and every one of them has stated their approval for Kaepernick and his protest, which has now spread throughout the country. One of them said that he fought for American citizens' right to protest the flag and to force them to do so would be in violation of the basic American principle of personal freedom.

Exactly. The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees citizens the right to protest—freedom of speech and freedom of expression. This has been a basic right afforded to Americans since the early years of the country's existence.

The irony of it all is, don't those on the right dislike the individual being told how to behave? I thought that was a major point of the ideology—and I used to be a staunch conservative. But yet, here they stand, arguing against Kaepernick's right to protest and saying people should stand for the national anthem no matter what.

Patriotism is a weapon.

Just as with the Pledge of Allegiance, the national anthem is a tool—a symbol which to rally the people behind. And don't get me wrong; that's not always a bad thing; it's a good thing more often than not. But the issue is when patriotism borders on blind nationalism.

Famed English author Julian Barnes once wrote: "The greatest patriotism is to tell your country when it is behaving dishonorably, foolishly, viciously."

Patriotism is recognizing that your country has flaws and working to fix them.

Ask yourself: do you consider the Nazis who went along with Hitler's propaganda and fanfare to be patriots, or is it those who boycotted it who were the true patriots?

Now, I am not saying America is as bad as the Third Reich. But we have problems, like racism and racially-motivated violence, and to ignore them would be a disservice to ourselves.

America's power is in its ability to change, and the ability of its citizens to affect that change.

FROM PAGE 2

DEBATE

ways heartening to hear his country mentioned in the debate, since Japan is often overlooked these days. But he disagreed with Trump's criticism that Japan and other U.S. allies aren't contributing enough to their defense.

"There is a small truth to what Mr. Trump was saying, in the sense that Japan was a kind of free-rider at least a cheap-rider back in the 1970s and '80s," said Michishita, director of the security and international studies program at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo.

"But ... now given what Prime Minister (Shinzo) Abe

is doing to make Japan much more proactive on defense and security matters, and trying to make Japan more engaged in international security affairs, it's like, 'What are you talking about?'"

HIROTSUGU AIDA, author of a book on the Trump phenomenon, agreed that Trump misunderstood the U.S.-Japan security alliance but said he still did better than Clinton.

"Trump unexpectedly acted presidential. It might be a setback for Clinton, who wanted to make him look unsuitable for presidency," he said.

PHILIPPINES
VICTOR ANDRES

MANHIT, president of the think-tank Albert del Rosario and International Studies, welcomed Clinton's assurances that the U.S. would honor its treaty obligations if she becomes president.

"I'm really hoping that that kind of statement reminds our own government that we have an ally in the United States vis-a-vis our fight for territorial integrity and our maritime rights in the South China Sea," he said.

SPAIN
Spain's main newspapers were unanimous in awarding victory to Clinton in the debate, each highlighting what they said was the

Democratic Party candidate's superior preparation and more convincing presidential image.

Its digital edition Tuesday, leading daily *El País*' headline said "Clinton corners Trump with lack of preparation." The center-left newspaper said that while neither candidate committed any major error, Clinton was able to put Trump on the defensive by questioning his "credentials as a businessman, accusing him of racism and placing in doubt his temperament to be commander in chief."

Conservative daily *ABC* said that "the first debate does not resolve anything but it does leave the impression

that the ex-secretary of state did her homework, knows the lesson better and transmits a more presidential image."

SIERRA LEONE
DORIS CONTEH, a teacher, listened to the debate on the BBC World Service early in the morning and found herself thinking that the United States is not ready for a female president despite Clinton's extensive experience in government.

"Although she performed well during the debate and Trump failed to triumph over the hilarious Hillary Clinton, I doubt it," she said.

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Fact or Fiction

FACT: For every human cell in the human body, there are ten bacterial cells, according to microbiologist Carolyn Bohach from the University of Idaho.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Pygmalion highlights from 2016



Photo by Li Zonghui | The Prospectus

Big Easy Brass performs at the 12th annual Pygmalion Festival.

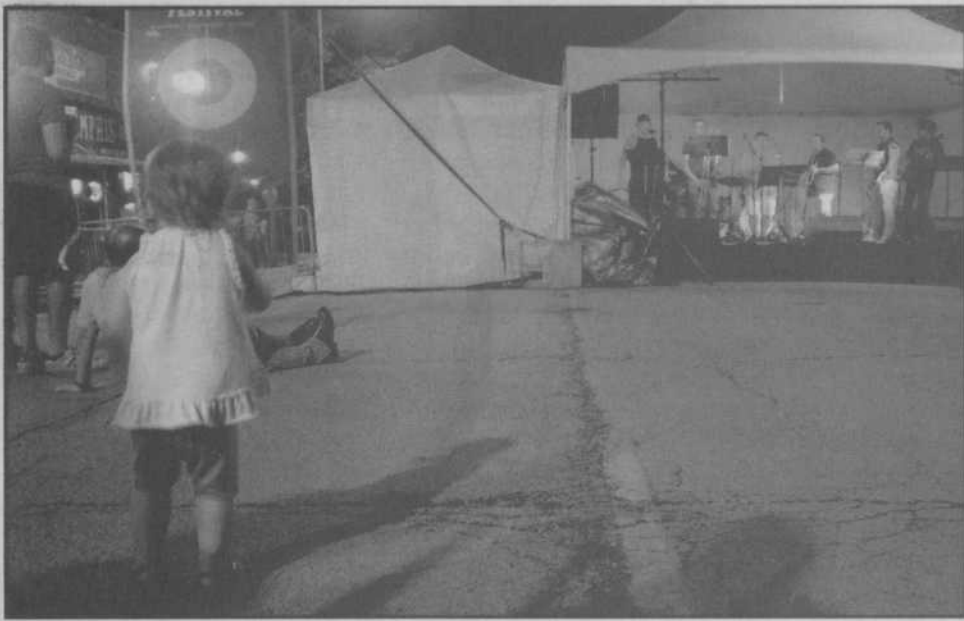


Photo by Li Zonghui | The Prospectus

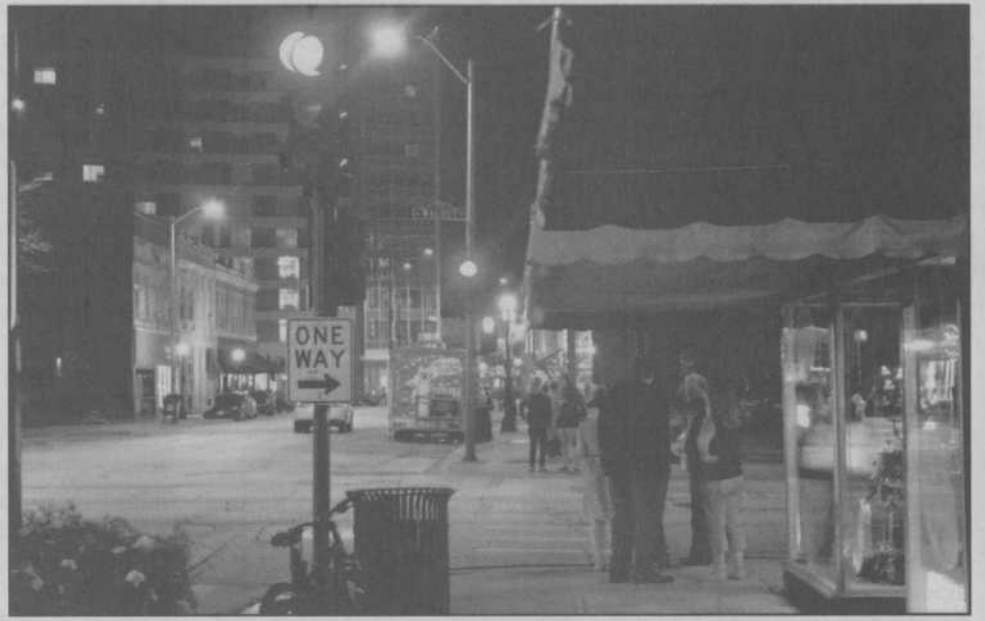


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PARKLAND COLLEGE

Call for Entries for the 2016 CUDO PRO SHOW

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – Local designers, marketers, photographers, web developers, students, and other creative professionals are invited to submit their work to the fourth annual CUDO PRO SHOW sponsored by the Champaign-Urbana Design Organization (CUDO) and held at the Gallery 217 in downtown Champaign.

At last year's 2015 PRO SHOW, over 100 entries were showcased, including print and broadcast advertising, apps, brochures, games, logos, packaging, posters, typography, videos, web design, and more.

Entries must be submitted by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 21, 2016. CUDO members may submit up to three entries; the first is free, and each additional entry is \$15. Non-members may also submit up to three entries at \$15 each; the first non-member entry includes CUDO Friend membership. Rules and the entry form can be found at www.thecudo.org/proshow.

"The CUDO Pro Show is the one opportunity each year to see locally-produced design and marketing pieces all in one place, in an art gallery setting," stated Gloria Roubal, co-chair of the Pro Show event and design and marketing

coordinator at the Champaign Public Library. "We have a wealth of talented individuals in the Champaign-Urbana community, and it's so exciting to discover who's responsible for the great work we've seen during the past year."

This year's CUDO PRO SHOW exhibition, co-sponsored by Surface 51, Thunderstruck Design, Premier Print Group, Pixo, Dean's Graphics, Fine and Applied Arts at Parkland College, and Gallery 217, is open to the general public with an opening reception on Friday, November 11, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. The reception will include beverages, light hors d'oeuvres, and live performance. The CUDO PRO SHOW will remain open through Monday, November 28.

The Champaign-Urbana Design Organization is made up of graphic designers, artists, photographers, marketers, writers, web designers, film makers, and a host of other design-minded professionals. Its mission is to cultivate a vibrant design culture that engages and enriches our local community. More information about the organization and the CUDO PRO SHOW can be found on the CUDO website, <http://thecudo.org/proshow>.

FROM PAGE 1

HUMANS

Wright has found that her patience towards her work has paid off. Last semester, Wright received a Merit Award for work that had been accepted into the juried student art show at Gertz Gallery, and she had several pieces selected for inclusion in Parkland's Images magazine.

"It felt amazing," she said.

Wright has some advice for others who may be starting their college studies later in life.

"For yourself," she said. "Even if it is going for a 10-minute country drive, a walk in the park, or hiding out in the bathroom. Learn to accept the chaos. Remind yourself that it will be over in [a few] semesters."

As far as her outlook on life, Wright offers some insight: "Work hard. Work smart. Love and be loved. Be kind to one another, and be kind to this earth. It is our home."

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