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The Prospectus

11-9-2016

Prospectus, November 9, 2016

Peter Floess

Parkland College

Scott Wells

Parkland College

Matt Moss

Parkland College

Dylan Kleiss

Parkland College

Ryan Mills

Parkland College

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Recommended Citation

Floess, Peter; Wells, Scott; Moss, Matt; Kleiss, Dylan; and Mills, Ryan, "Prospectus, November 9, 2016" (2016). *Prospectus 2016*. 28.

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Campus |
Airing Robots

A new radio drama by Parkland Comm students

Page 2

News |
Parkland Soccer

Cobras win conference and regionals

Page 3

Travel |
Study Abroad

Parkland student Ryan Mills describes his visit to China

Page 4

Campus |
Japanese Culture Club

Some highlights from discussions of the Eastern world

Page 8



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prospectus

The sun shines on Parkland's campus after a quick rain shower in the afternoon of Nov. 2.

HUMANS OF PARKLAND
Thom Schnarre



Photo by Scott Wells | The Prospectus

Scott Wells
Staff Writer

Although Thom Schnarre grew up on a farm in Nokomis, Ill., he knew right away that he himself was not a farmer.

"In fourth grade some boys from church asked me what my dad's tractors were," Schnarre said. "I said he had an orange and a green one."

Schnarre was born in Taylorville, Ill., but at five moved to Nokomis with his family in order to take over his maternal grandparents' farm.

"I just always was into the arts and films," he said. "Allis-Chalmers and John Deere were not really in my vocabulary. It was a bumpy ride growing up."

Initially majoring in journalism, Schnarre would earn his undergraduate degree in elementary education with a special education focus from Eastern Illinois University. A total of 17 years later, he would return to pursue his master's.

"My thesis was a 365-page novel and a 45-page researched rationale for its writing technique and style," he said. "It's very pretty writing, is one of the biggest bound theses in EIU's library and will never be published because... I'm not going to pursue it. Sometimes you write something and realize it's not something you care to share with the masses."

After completing his studies at EIU, Schnarre came to Parkland in 1996 as a part-time instructor. He was later hired as a full-time tenured-track instructor in 2001.

An English professor by day, Schnarre's passion lies in the performing arts.

"I watched all those late night movies with

Radio drama by comm. students to air on WPCD

Peter Floess
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, November 15, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 16 at noon and 8 p.m. Parkland Radio, WPCD 88.7 FM, will play "Airing Robots."

"Airing Robots" was put together by Parkland's Communications 142 Radio Production and Communication 140 Voice and Diction.

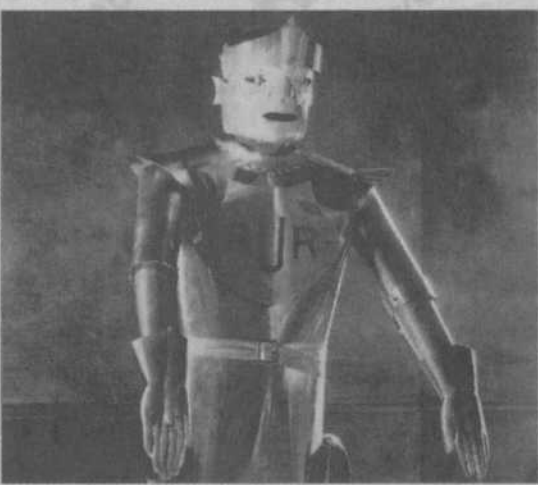
"Airing Robots" is based on the play "R.U.R.," which was written by the Czech writer Karel Čapek in 1920. "R.U.R." stands for "Rossumovi Univerzální Roboti," or "Rossum's Universal Robots" translated from Czech.

"[It] is famous for being the first time anywhere that the word 'robot' is used in the world of science fiction," says Deane Geiken, director of Parkland's WPCD 88.7 FM radio station.

COM 140 instructor Michael O'Brien believes what makes the play a bit different is that it is on the older

AIRING ROBOTS

Tuesday, November 15th
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday, November 16th
12 p.m. & 8 p.m.



A Radio Drama
Produced by COM 142 students
in collaboration with the voice talents of COM 140 students

88.7 WPCD FM

Image provided by Deane Geiken

side—almost 100 years old—and is a science fiction story.

In comparison, last school year's two radio dramas were based on an Agatha Christie's detective mystery "The ABC Murders" and John Dickson Carr's locked room mystery "The Burning Court." Both shows had scripts from the CBS "Suspense" radio show of the '40s.

O'Brien says he has read "R.U.R." many times.

It took O'Brien's class less than two hours to record the script they then sent to Adam Porter's radio production class. Porter says he and his class were enthusiastic about the project and had a fun time producing it.

Porter's class will produce two versions of the production, says Geiken.

"Communication 142 students were split up to form two groups to produce the drama," he said. "Each group will have the same dialogue, but each will be unique with its own special sound effects, soundtrack and

SEE **ROBOTS** PAGE 3

SEE **HUMANS** PAGE

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Fact or Fiction

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Answer on page 4

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LIFESTYLE

Club Latino a 'family-like community'

Dylan Kleiss
Staff Writer

Members of Parkland's Club Latino say the organization behaves as a family-like community and creates long-lasting friendships as it goes about its goals of reaching out to Parkland and local high school students with Hispanic heritage.

Among the many different clubs at Parkland, one of them is Club Latino. Every Thursday at noon, Parkland students can meet in Student Life to take part in Club Latino. The club meets to just generally get together and talk about current events amidst lunchtime.

In one word, members of Club Latino described what it means to them.

"Family," said one student. Her reply was instantly met with a team of smiles.

"It's a small community," said another member. "Like a lot of friendships that you build up here. It's a good distraction from all the homework and long hours."

Many members had the same idea of what the club meant to them. They say when one goes to the meeting for the first time, everyone seems to know each other. And in time their goal is to get to know every individual member.

"It's a support network," said the club's faculty advisor Charles Larenas. "It's a

safe place to talk to people: an outreach center to go to inspire Latino youth in the community."

For the nine years that Larenas has been doing Club Latino, the days have kept pretty much the same. Often times, students that are interested continue to stay with the club, and though they may get busy and not come for a while Club Latino is always on the same days for when they return—an added convenience for the often busy life of the college student. The club tries to make it easy for people to find them.

Apart from the lunch meetings on Thursdays, the club has events throughout the year. The events and programs often place their focus on teamwork-building. One of the events is the Buddy Walk, a nationwide series of festivities put on by the National Down Syndrome Society which celebrates Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Club Latino puts on a barbecue, as well as goes to Chicago and Wisconsin to participate in events there.

One of the programs is at Champaign's International Prep Academy. Here they go to read to local students. They outreach to the high schools in the community, as well, to speak to students about the importance of going to college. Apart from just meeting every week, they



Photo provided

sometimes have a speaker come into the meetings that provides different activities and discussions.

"The interactions they have with those students can make an impact on these kids," Larenas said. "The outreach also looks good on scholarships."

Club Latino does quite a bit for the local community. The club tries to increase the value of education to members of the community. Voluntary service is in-part how they show support to

local families and services at Parkland.

Club Latino is open to all; everyone is welcome that wants to take part in current events and share in the organization's mission of community outreach.

The club allows for students in all programs to be exposed to a new presence at Parkland that is not always seen on the surface. It is a diverse organization, with students from Brazil and Venezuela, among others.

Several members of the

club gave a comical answer when asked what can be gained by joining the club: "pounds."

People should come to the meetings with a good appetite, whether they are serving pizza, donuts, or even sandwiches. Club Latino strives to promote camaraderie, while laughing and having good conversations.

"[It's] a safe place to just talk to people: a no-judge zone," said one member.

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NEWS

Official: 40 to 50 buildings damaged in Oklahoma quake

Justin Juozapavicius
Associated Press

CUSHING, Okla. (AP) — Dozens of buildings sustained “substantial damage” after a 5.0 magnitude earthquake struck an Oklahoma town that’s home to one of the world’s key oil hubs, but officials said Monday that no damage has been reported at the oil terminal.

Cushing City Manager Steve Spears said 40 to 50 buildings were damaged in Sunday’s earthquake, which was the third in Oklahoma this year with a magnitude of 5.0 or greater. No major injuries have been reported, and Spears said the damage included cracks to buildings and fallen bricks and facades.

Oklahoma has had thousands of earthquakes in recent years, with nearly all traced to the underground injection of wastewater left over from oil and gas production. Sunday’s quake was centered 1 mile west of Cushing and about 25 miles south of where a magnitude 4.3 quake forced a shutdown of several wells last week.

Fearing aftershocks, police cordoned off older parts of the city about 50

miles northeast of Oklahoma City to keep gawkers away late Sunday, and geologists confirmed that several small quakes have rumbled the area. Spears said an assisted living community had been evacuated after damage was reported. The Cushing Public School District canceled Monday classes.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation reported Sunday night that no highway or bridge damage was found within a 15-mile radius of the earthquake’s epicenter.

The quake struck at 7:44 p.m. Sunday and was felt as far away as Iowa, Illinois and Texas. The U.S. Geological Survey initially said Sunday’s quake was of magnitude 5.3 but later lowered the reading to 5.0.

“I thought my whole trailer was going to tip over, it was shaking it so bad,” said Cushing resident Cindy Roe, 50. “It was loud and all the lights went out and you could hear things falling on the ground.”

“It was awful and I don’t want to have another one.”

In recent years, Oklahoma regulators have asked oil and gas producers to either close wastewater injection

wells or cut back on the volume of fluids injected. The reductions have generally led to a drop-off in quakes and their severity, though not always.

Oklahoma’s strongest quake on record, a magnitude 5.8 temblor on Sept. 3, occurred in Pawnee, on the fringe of an area that had already restricted wastewater disposal. Shortly afterward, geologists speculated on whether the temblor occurred on a previously unknown fault.

Cushing’s oil storage terminal is one of the world’s largest. As of Oct. 28, tank farms in the countryside around Cushing held 58.5 million barrels of crude oil, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The community bills itself as the “Pipeline Crossroads of the World.”

Cushing Assistant City Manager Jeremy Frazier said two pipeline companies had reported no trouble as of late Sunday but that the community hadn’t heard from all companies. Gov. Mary Fallin tweeted that no damage was reported at the storage tanks at Cushing’s oil

storage terminal

Megan Gustafson and Jonathan Gillespie were working at a Cushing McDonald’s when the quake hit.

“It felt like a train was going right through the building, actually,” Gustafson, 17, said Sunday night as she and her co-workers stood behind a police barricade downtown, looking for damage. “I kind of freaked out and was hyperventilating a bit.”

Gillespie said the building shook for about 10 seconds, but that he wasn’t as alarmed as Gustafson because he lives in an area that has experienced multiple earthquakes, especially in recent years.

“I didn’t think it was anything new,” he said.

According to USGS data, there have been about two dozen earthquakes in Oklahoma in the past week. When particularly strong quakes hit, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission directs well operators to cease wastewater injections or reduce volume.

“I was at home doing some work in my office and, basically, you could feel the whole house sway some,”

Spears, the Cushing city manager, said Sunday night. “It’s beginning to become normal.”

FROM PAGE 1

ROBOTS

production.”

One aspect of “Airing Robots” and its source material Geiken finds interesting is the type of robots featured: androids as opposed to cog-and-gear machines.

“[T]he robots of R.U.R. are not your typical mechanical robots that you might imagine for this sort of early sci-fi story, but more akin to cyborgs or androids made from organic matter. The robots of R.U.R. are more like the ‘Cylons’ of the 2004 version of ‘Battlestar Galactica,’ or the cyborgs of the ‘Terminator’ movie series,” he said.

Čapek, who was a highly-political writer, wrote “R.U.R.” in 1920, when Europe was feeling the effects of the Russian civil war and the end of World War I. According to Czech writer and biographer Ivan Kilma, Čapek wrote the play in response to many of the societal and technocratic utopian ideas that were spreading around Central Europe at that time.

R.U.R. was first performed in 1921, Kilma states.

The Parkland student-created drama is “one of the highlights of the semester at WPCD,” Geiken says.

“[T]o have a production such as this, created and produced by Parkland College students and then aired on WPCD, is an amazing experience. The talent and imagination of these students is out of this world. Their training and skill really comes out when you listen to these productions,” he said.

Parkland Cobra soccer teams 2016



Photos provided

Both the Parkland Men’s and Women’s Soccer teams won their conference (MWAC) and regional (Region 24) championships.



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TRAVEL

Reasons to go to China



The Great Wall of China, Beijing China

All photos submitted by Ryan Mills

Ryan Mills
Parkland Student

Do you ever get tired of living an average life? Want to step outside the box and have new experiences? Learn a new language? If you answer is yes to any of these questions, then studying abroad in China is for you. For the first semester of my sophomore year in college I decided I wanted to study abroad in China. When thinking of a place to study abroad, I wanted to go somewhere I knew fairly little about. China has different food, people, holidays, historic monuments, and language that I knew little about, I struck gold with my choice.

Who doesn't like food? Imagine eating at your favorite Chinese restaurant almost every day but ten times better. The food is fantastic and very affordable. Get ready to put the fork down and pick up the chop sticks. If you get tired of Chinese food there is always Pizza Hut, Burger King, McDonalds and KFC to reach your inner American, (all chains actually taste way better in China than they do in America). Eating at a restaurant with friends is different than back in the States. When you order food you don't get a single dish for yourself, you share all dishes with the people at the table, get a little piece of everything, and split the fare evenly, it's awesome. Part of the culture in China is to share everything you have with others, especially the food.

The people of China are generous and very patriotic about their country. Everywhere I've encountered people who have wanted to help me regardless of our differences or barrier of communication.



Night out at Hot Pot with friends, Xian, China

When Chinese people, especially college students see foreigners, (particularly Americans) they want to get to know them. Majority of students will speak very good English because on the gao kao (China's college entrance exam) they are tested on their reading, writing and speaking of English. Don't be surprised if students come up asking for a photo with you, I probably have a picture with every girl on campus! Also people are astonished, that someone from America wants to get to know the language and culture of their country! They appreciate you being in China so much and will invite you out to eat, karaoke, even the clubs and will not allow you to pay for anything! Whether you like to study, play sports, or party you will definitely find an amazing group of friends that you will share a handful of lifetime memories. I know I have.

During my time abroad I celebrated two important Chinese holidays in which I took advantage of to get to know the country. The first

holiday was Mid-Autumn Festival a holiday to spend quality time with family or friends and eat moon cakes, sort of like a Chinese Thanksgiving. The capital of China is a historic place. I once said, "If you go to China and don't visit the Great Wall of China, you did not go to China." Sure enough, I went to the great wall and stepped foot on an iconic part of Chinese history. The next day we visited The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and ate the delicious Peking duck. The first week of October is China's national holiday celebrating the rise of the communist party and the People's Republic of China. The holiday is also known as the Golden holiday, starts on October 1st, the day Chairman Mao Zedong entered office in 1949. On this day 500 million people and I were traveling in China. A week off class allowed me to visit Chengdu, the home of the Giant Panda Breeding Research Center and Zhangjiajie, the home of the Avatars, from the movie Avatar. In conclusion, when



Home of the Avatars, Zhangjiajie Forest National Park, Zhangjiajie, China

you visit China make sure to visit as many of the beautiful places the country has to offer.

China has a population of one billion, and millions abroad. It is crucial to be able to communicate with people in more than just your native language. Learning a new language is an investment for the future. Employers are looking for "out of classroom experiences" that will make you stand out from the other people applying for that position. Living and learning in a foreign culture will separate you from other candidates. Being able to speak more than one language will open the doors to new opportunities. There is no doubt that learning a new language is difficult but extremely fun. If you can focus and dedicate yourself to it, there is no reason you won't be able to speak, read, and write Mandarin.

I recall my family asking me, "Do you really want to live in a communist country for a semester?" I had thought nothing of it; I was in search of new experiences that would allow me to find out more about myself that I would not have been able

to learn living my average life back in Champaign. To answer my family's question, living as a student in a communist country feels no different than being a student in a liberal democracy. You will have limited access of internet but that can easily be fixed by using a VPN. A virtual private network allows you to use Google, Facebook, Youtube, Instagram and all of your favorite sites block by Chinas Great Firewall.

These days with the advantage of social media and the internet people are afraid of having direct experiences. People tend to not want to read a book, see a movie or visit a new place without reading the reviews, so they know what to think of the potential experience, but they miss the direct experience. People become frightened and want to know the meaning of something before they try it out themselves. When you study abroad in China, you will challenge everything you know, overcome stereotypes, and shape yourself as a student, traveler, and human being. Your family, friends and I will look forward to hearing about your trip when you return. Bon voyage!

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Fact or Fiction

FACT: The red supergiant UY Scuti has a volume estimated to be 5 billion times more than the Sun, meaning 5 billion Suns could fit within it. The Sun could only fit around 1.3 million Earths; UY Scuti could hold 6.5 trillion Earths.

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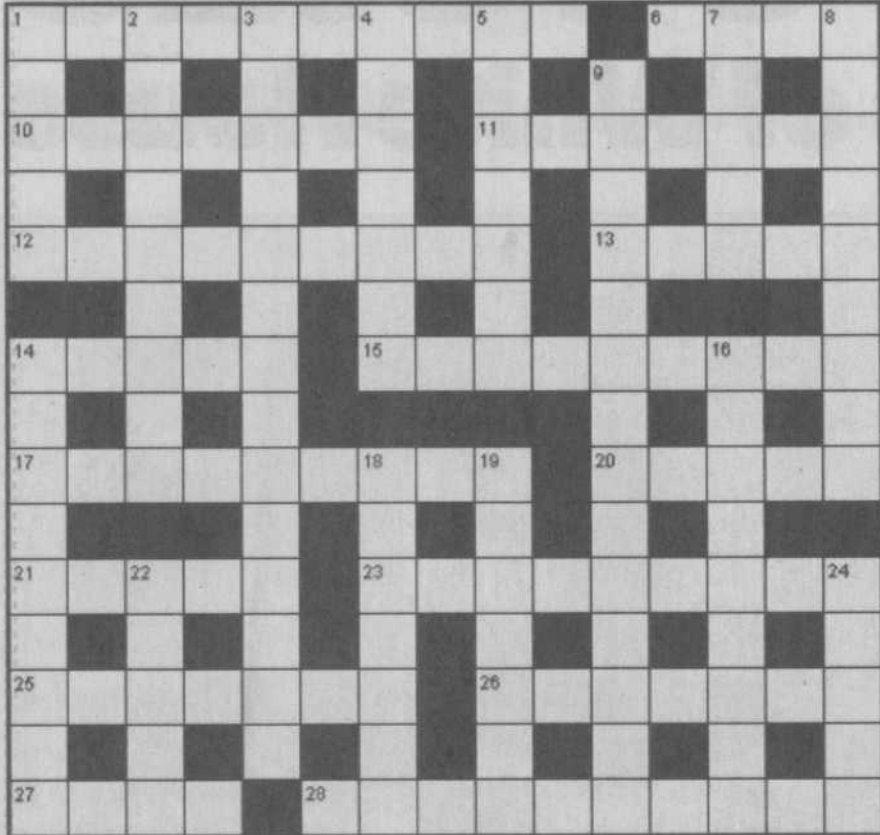
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CROSSWORD & COMICS

Crossword (solve for the answers below)



ACROSS

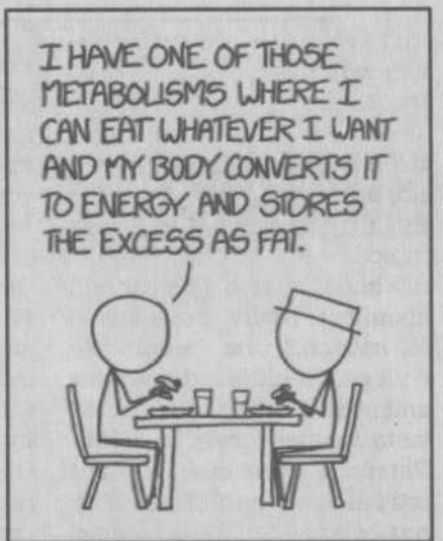
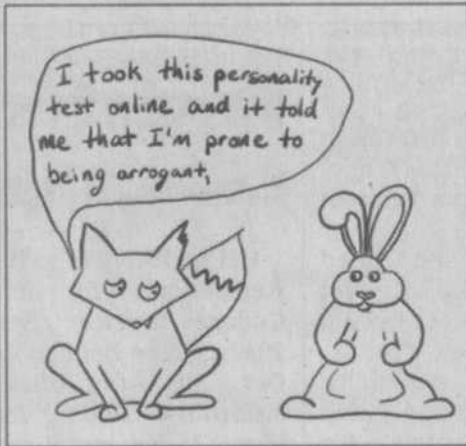
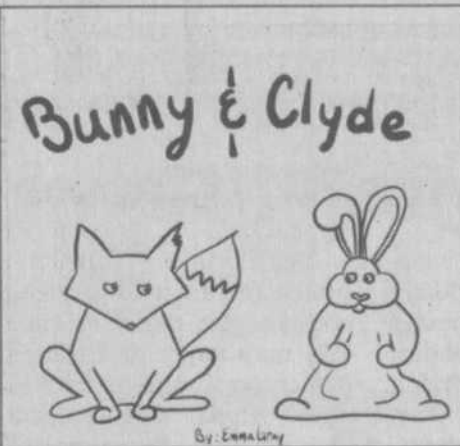
- 1 Exact lookalike of the late Quasimodo? (4,6)
- 6 Travel across river from Belgravia, say, to Maidenhead (4)
- 10 Undercooked part of dish (7)
- 11 Company's chief gets less productive daily (7)
- 12 Contrives to disconcert sneering European (9)
- 13 Outspoken heretic of race favoured by the Nazis (5)
- 14 Engage in a fight (3-2)
- 15 Chap's a non-starter; being in inferior health (9)
- 17 New codeine recipe damaged certain type of gland (9)
- 20 A French scoundrel's right off the hook (5)
- 21 Soldier turned up carrying fuel (5)
- 23 He's to follow story written out in seven languages (9)
- 25 Ultimately dedicated doctors in hospital department get farthest (7)
- 26 Spread rumours - very quietly? (7)
- 27 Tie up an animal (4)
- 28 The old man put back price to tempt student (10)

DOWN

- 1 Diana's got energy back (5)
- 2 Order to a brigade I revoked and rescinded (9)
- 3 Islander presenting Wyss's family with empty pot? (8,6)
- 4 Seasoning mainly left out of a foodstuff (7)
- 5 Forgives former partner's swearing right away (7)
- 7 Girl, one concealing Ecstasy, is frightened (5)
- 8 Members of RC sect will include fashionable Italian poet's followers (9)
- 9 In summary, the soldiers surrender (14)
- 14 Insomniac skins up on fewer occasions (9)
- 16 Trees from Europe with typical problem (9)
- 18 I am getting almost passionate about favourite Egyptian architect (7)
- 19 Authorise note lifting pressure on debtor (7)
- 22 God involved with rain (5)
- 24 Some of letter's extremely concise (5)

Answers from last week

1	S	E	S	A	M	E	6	A	D	J	O	U	R	N	S		
	R	N	V					E	V	O	T						
10	R	U	N	G	11	E	X	A	S	P	E	R	A	T	E		
	D	E	R					T	R	D	A						
12	M	I	L	L	E	T	13	P	R	O	P	O	S	E	D		
	T	I	O					O	O	E	F						
14	M	E	R	C	E	N	A	R	Y	18	W	O	N	G	A		
	E	U	Y					V	E	E	S	S					
19	R	U	B	L	E	20	U	N	D	E	R	21	R	W	E	N	T
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26	E	P	I	T	H	E	L	I	U	M	27	I	B	E	X		
	N	S	E	A				O	K	A							
28	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	Y	29	S	T	E	E	R	S		



SUDOKU

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

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Answers from last week

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

FEATURES

Obama reveals private living areas of White House

Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama likes to say the White House is the “people’s house.” Now, the people are getting a look at the rooms where he lives.

Exclusive photos published Tuesday by Architectural Digest are giving the public its first glimpse of private areas on the second floor of the White House that Obama, his wife, Michelle, daughters Malia and Sasha and family dogs Bo and Sunny have called home for nearly eight years.

Los Angeles-based interior designer Michael Smith decorated the rooms, as well as the Oval Office. A mutual friend in Chicago introduced him to the Obamas after the 2008 election.

The first lady said Smith managed to reflect her family’s tastes while respecting the history of the White House.

“Above all, it has truly felt like a home for our family,” she told the magazine.

Photos show the Yellow Oval Room; the Treaty Room, where Obama retreats late at night to read briefing material for the next day; a sitting room; a dining room; and the master bedroom. The rooms are adorned with a variety of modern and contemporary art borrowed from major art institutions, such as the National Gallery of Art and Smithsonian museums.

Architectural Digest has also published photos of the

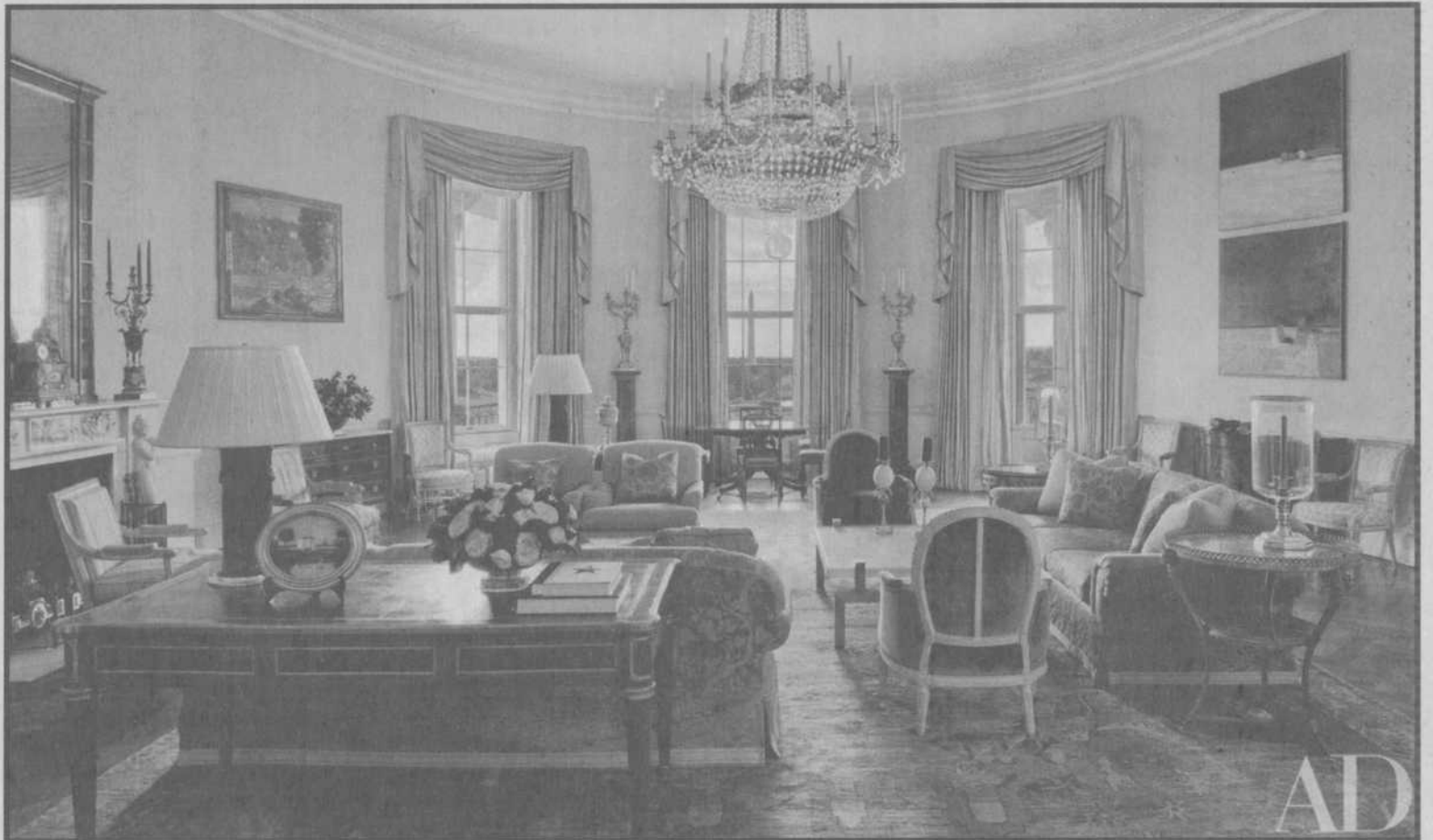


Photo by Michael Mundy | Architectural Digest via AP Phone

The image provided by Architectural Digest shows the Yellow Oval Room in the White House in a cover story about . Designer Michael S. Smith specified a Donald Kaufman paint for the Yellow Oval Room. Artworks by Paul Cézanne and Daniel Garber flank the mantel. Smith mellowed the Yellow Oval Room with smoky browns, greens, golds, and blues. The 1978 Camp David peace accords were signed at the antique Denis-Louis Ancelet desk, front left. President Barack Obama likes to say the White House is the “people’s house.” Architectural Digest photos are giving the public its first glimpse of private areas on the second floor of the White House that Obama, his wife, Michelle, daughters Malia and Sasha and family dogs Bo and Sunny have called home for nearly eight years.

private living quarters of Presidents John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush.

Amy Astley, the editor in chief, said the Obamas’ personal style, and the history and diversity of the nation, are reflected in their art and decor choices. The Architectural Digest issue

with photos of the Obama living quarters is scheduled to appear on newsstands on Nov. 8, Election Day.

Decorated in beige hues, the master bedroom has an antique canopy bed decked out with fine Italian linen. Identical, footed tables at either side of the bed, one bearing family photos and

one stacked with books. Matching, upholstered chairs and a sofa form a sitting area.

Smith called the bedroom the Obamas’ “sanctuary.”

“You really want to make sure that the president of the United States gets a good night’s sleep,” he told the magazine.

That’s something Obama

apparently gets. “I have a phone right by my bedside and every morning somebody calls and says, ‘Mr. President, it’s your 7 a.m. wake-up call,’” Obama said during an appearance last week on ABC’s “Jimmy Kimmel Live!”

FROM PAGE 1

HUMANS

my mom that a 10-year old shouldn’t really be allowed to watch,” he said. “In college, I auditioned for choir and was a soloist which led to a featured role in ‘HMS Pinafore,’ an odd student production where I was both naked and dead in the corner of a prison cell.”

Schnarre has been a part of many Parkland theater productions, both as an actor and as a director, including “Cabaret,” “Pinkalicious,” and “Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches.” He feels his best effort at Parkland, however, was the production of “Dead Man’s Cell Phone.”

“It used a lot of multimedia...

and was visually arresting, and the ethereal tone of the script was quite haunting and lovely,” he said.

Schnarre is currently directing a stage adaptation of “The Birds,” the same story Alfred Hitchcock used as the skeleton for his classic film of the same name.

“It’s very different from the film: four strangers are trapped in an abandoned cottage in small-town New England by a worldwide attack of birds, which have killed most of the population, knocked out the media and power grid and stopped all deliveries and even stopped the running water,” Schnarre said. “The strangers are forced to forage for everything, and we are locked in the cottage with them over the course of three months in the fall of 2017.”

The show opened on Nov. 3 at the Station Theater in Urbana and will run through Nov. 19.

Schnarre has experienced many personal and professional successes while at Parkland.

He has been a faculty advisor for both Phi Theta Kappa and Parkland Pride. He also received an International Paragon Advisor Award in 2010 for his efforts on behalf of the college.

However, Schnarre finds a great deal of success and satisfaction in his classroom.

“As an English teacher, [my greatest success has] been the hundreds of students I’ve influenced and who have influenced me throughout my time here,” he said. “We are taught by each other, and we rarely recognize how precious that is for all of us.”

Register for Parkland College Spring 2017 Classes

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Registration for Parkland College Spring Semester 2017 classes begins Monday, Oct. 31, for continuing students and Monday, Nov. 7 for new students. Spring instruction begins the week of Jan. 17, 2017.

The Parkland College Spring 2017 Class Schedule will be available online the week of Nov. 7. Current students may view spring classes now through my.Parkland, while new students may view class options by visiting www.parkland.edu/academics/catalog and clicking the “Find a Class” link. Register early for best course selection.

Interested in taking college courses for the first time? You may apply to Parkland: in person at the admissions office, Room U214; online; by faxing a completed application form to 217/353-2640; or by mailing a completed application to Admissions and Records, Parkland College, 2400 W. Bradley Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821-1899.

Course registration for full-term and 8-week spring classes will continue through Jan. 12. For more information on registration steps, call the Office of Admissions and Records at 217/351-2482 or email admissions@parkland.edu.

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Originally created as the Parkland College Prospectus in 1968 in Champaign, IL, The Prospectus is a student produced news source in print, Web, and design media formats. The Prospectus is published weekly during the semester and monthly during the summer.

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Did you know?

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

LIFESTYLE

Google speaker is secretary, radio ... and work in progress

Anick Jesdanun
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Google's new smart speaker is at once a secretary, a librarian and a radio.

Ask about your day, and the Home speaker will give you the time, weather, estimated commute, the news and upcoming calendar appointments. It will convert miles into feet, and dollars into euros. Want to hear Adele or Coldplay? Home will fetch you some tunes.

If this sounds familiar, it's because Amazon has already been at it for about two years. Its Echo speaker can do what Home does and more, thanks to Amazon's head start in partnering with third-party services such as Domino's Pizza and Fitbit. But Home is smarter in a few other ways, as it taps what it knows about you from Gmail, Maps and other Google services. Home is also \$50 cheaper, at about \$130 (though Amazon offers a mini "Echo Dot" version for just \$50).

AT YOUR COMMAND

Think of both Home and Echo as extensions of your iPhone or Android device. Sure, I can check weather on the phone, but why not just ask the speaker as I'm getting dressed? And no need to lift a finger to check the calendar. With guests over, I can resolve trivia disputes using voice searches and avoid screens. This week, I was able to keep tabs on the Chicago Cubs' quest to break

a century-long World Series drought.

Both devices work as alarm clocks or timers — great in the kitchen. Both can control lights, thermostats and other internet-connected appliances, though you need capable devices first.

Of course, I have to get used to speaking aloud with no one around. Privacy is a concern, too, once I enable all the features. Anyone within hearing distance will know when I'm seeing the doctor or leaving my apartment empty for vacation. Home and Echo are continually listening for commands, though Google and Amazon say nothing gets passed back to them until the speakers hear a keyword — "OK, Google" for Home and "Alexa" for Echo. A light comes on to remind you that it's listening. You can turn off the microphone temporarily, too.

LONGING FOR MORE

Neither device is all that proactive. Android phones with the Google Now assistant will remind me when it's time to leave for work or the airport, based on estimated travel times. But I'm usually not checking the phone as I'm getting ready to leave. I could use a nudge from either speaker. On the other hand, I might find a stranger's voice jarring when I think I'm alone. It's a new technology, and companies still have to figure out the right balance.

And while Home and Echo offer the basics, neither lets me dig deeper. Sure, I have

an appointment at 11 a.m., but where is it and with whom? And how can I get there? It's back to the phone. Another limitation: Both speakers are tied to a single account, so families won't get individual calendars and preferences.

IN UNITY

The speakers are more powerful when they coordinate with your other devices.

The best stab so far comes from Amazon. Ask Echo the weather, and the speaker will tell you current conditions and the day's forecast. But if you have an Amazon Fire tablet nearby, you automatically get a full-screen display with the week's forecast. Ask Echo about the Cubs, and you'll hear the score. The tablet gives you inning-by-inning breakdowns.

Home can control Google's Chromecast streaming TV devices, but the preview I've been testing has been painful to use. You can pause, resume or forward video; you're also supposed to be able to rewind and start from the beginning, but Home gets fussy. It currently works only with YouTube video (Netflix and Google Photos are coming soon). Even then, Home keeps thinking I'm requesting a song that doesn't exist. There's potential here, but controls on the phone are much easier. Watching TV shouldn't take a lot of work.

Ideally, the technology will just know where and how to present information and entertainment. In such

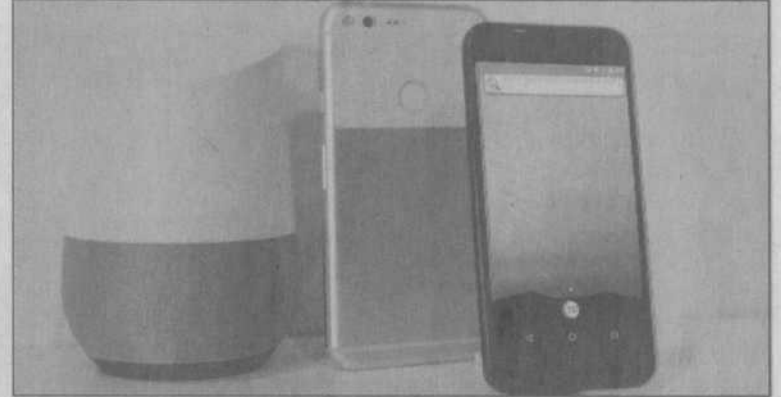


Photo by Eric Risberg | AP Phone

In this Oct. 4, 2016 file photo, the new Google Pixel phone is displayed next to a Google Home smart speaker, left.

a scenario, you can set one alarm, and Google or Amazon will find you wherever you are — whether it's on the speaker at home, or a phone if you're away. Or if you ask the speaker about a nearby restaurant, directions go to your phone. For now, unification is limited to a shopping list you can add to and view (or hear) from any device.

EARLY SMARTS, EARLY DUMBS

Home, with an early incarnation of a Google digital companion called Assistant, seems the smarter of the two out of the gate. It knows about my upcoming flight, based on reservations in Gmail. It offers commute times using transit, as Google already senses through my Android phone that I don't drive to work. Home can also estimate driving time to just about any other destination. Echo sends me to work, even when I ask about Boston. And Home is alone in setting alarms more

than 24 hours away.

But partnerships will make these speakers more useful. I can ask Echo about my Fitbit goals or order pizza from Domino's; I can't with Home. Amazon has more than a thousand such partnerships, known as skills. Google's integrations are initially limited to calling for Ubers, changing news or music providers and controlling smart devices from Phillips, SmartThings and Nest (a Google sister company).

Google still has bugs to work out. How are the Chicago Cubs doing? Home told me the Cubs are the regular-season division leaders and are based in Chicago. Duh! I had to ask again for the World Series score.

And after the Cubs won in extra innings early Thursday morning, both Home and Echo were nonchalant in giving me the final score. I wouldn't have known from either that the Cubs were now the world champions and that Chicago fans got to finally celebrate.

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CAMPUS

Students from Okinawa, Japan visit Parkland

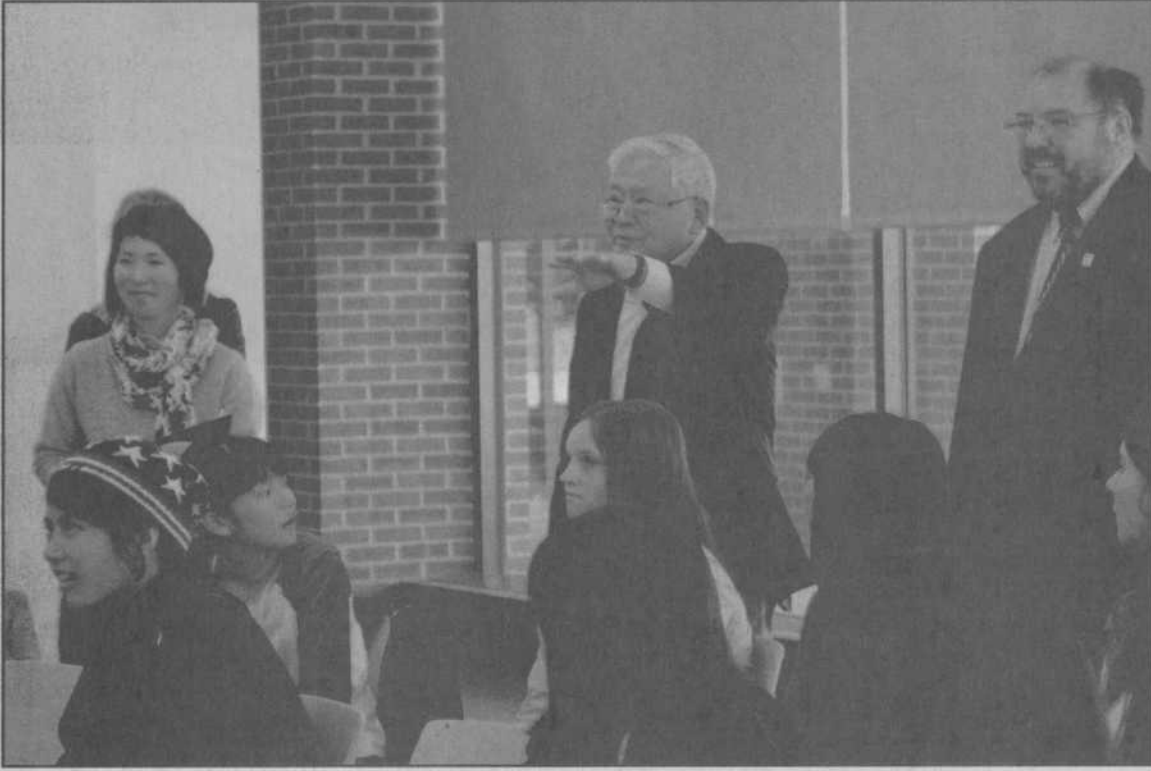


Photo by Matt Moss | The Prosepectus
Parkland humanities instructor Takuo Kinoshita (standing, center) speaks to visiting students and their chaperones from Okinawa, Japan, as well as members of Parkland's Japanese Culture Club and students from his course on the Cultural Values of the Eastern World.



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prosepectus
Wendy Patriquin, chair of Parkland's humanities department (standing, right), speaks to visiting Okinawan and Parkland students about the humanities department and its services.



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prosepectus
Parkland's Vice President for Institutional Advancement Seamus Reilly speaks to visiting Okinawan and Parkland students about the college's history of international outreach programs.



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prosepectus
Parkland humanities instructor Waunita Kinoshita (standing, left), Wendy Patriquin (standing, center-left), Takuo Kinoshita (standing, center), and Duane Johansen, outreach coordinator at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies (standing, right), listen as Naoko Obara, one of the group's chaperones and coordinator at the Japan International Cooperation Center (standing, center-right), translates Patriquin's speech for visiting Okinawan students.



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prosepectus
Takuo Kinoshita (standing, center) speaks to visiting Okinawan and Parkland students.



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prosepectus
Waunita Kinoshita (standing, left) discusses Okinawan plant life with visiting Okinawan and Parkland students.



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prosepectus
Naoko Obara translates for visiting Okinawan students a question from Waunita Kinoshita about their experiences growing up in Okinawa.



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prosepectus
LEFT: Duane Johansen (sitting, center-left) and Takuo Kinoshita (standing, center) react during a group discussion with visiting Okinawan and Parkland students.



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