Prairie Gardens Plant Laboratory Dedicated

Special Thanks to Michaels’ Catering for Donating the Refreshments

Parkland College celebrated the opening of the Prairie Gardens Plant Laboratory on May 8, 2007. The celebration featured light refreshments, generously donated by Michaels’ Catering, and tours of the facility with students and faculty.

According to Kaizad Irani, Landscape and Horticulture program director, “Having the Prairie Gardens Plant Laboratory positions Parkland College’s horticulture and landscape design programs to respond to the rapid growth within the community and the horticulture industry.”

Students, faculty, and community members use the greenhouse for projects ranging from plant identification, propagation, and production to hands-on, clientele-oriented approaches in plant management, floral design, and landscape design.

“These greenhouses are a wonderful example of the partnerships Parkland College has with many residents and businesses in the community,” says Carl Meyer, executive director of the Parkland College Foundation. “We could not have created this laboratory without the substantial support of Jeff and Charlotte Wandell, owners of Prairie Gardens.”

Cutting the ribbon are from left to right: Laura Weis, President and CEO, Champaign County Chamber of Commerce; Dana Trimble, Parkland College Board of Trustees; Bonnie Kelley, Parkland College Board of Trustees; Linden Warfel, Parkland College Board of Trustees; Champaign Mayor Gerald Schweighart; Jeff and Charlotte Wandell, owner of Prairie Gardens; and Donna Giertz, Parkland College Board of Trustees.

Zelema Harris and Mark David Milliron Recipients of AACC 2007 Leadership Award

Zelema Harris, president emeritus of Parkland College, and Mark David Milliron, director of the national Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), received a Leadership Award from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) at the association’s annual conference in Florida on April 15.

An annual tradition since 1982, the AACC Leadership Award is presented to individuals whose accomplishments and professional contributions to the community college field have been outstanding at the national level and over an extended period of time. An awards committee consisting of members of the AACC Board of Directors reviews all nominations and makes the final selections. Past recipients of the award include distinguished colleagues from educational institutions, foundations and associations.

Zelema Harris served as a community college president for 26 years. Under her guidance, Parkland College achieved distinction as one of the top three providers of online learning among all higher education institutions in Illinois. The college also gained national and state awards for the college planning process, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Commitment to Diversity.

Parsons/3DI hosted a reception at the annual conference in Zelema Harris’s honor.
Over 250 community members and faculty and staff attended the Parkland College Foundation’s 10th Annual Gala at the Round Barn Banquet Center on Friday, May 4, which raised over $51,000! Special thanks to our Master of Ceremonies that evening, Anne Dill and Rob Collins, from the WCIA Morning Show.

The Crow Quintet provided terrific jazz entertainment and there was an array of fabulous silent auction items including a trip for two for a week in Hawaii to watch the Illinois men’s basketball team play in the EA Sports Maui Invitational Tournament in November 2007. Other silent items included artwork, golf packages, and Cardinals and Bears tickets.

Many thanks to the 2007 Gala committee, volunteers, and our friends that helped make this a special evening:

Balloon Creations • David Barr • Bartell & Barickman, LLP • Myriah Benner Robbie Berg • Billy Barooz • Brookhill Golf Course • Circles • Craig Detamore, Donald Dodds • Melanie Garlits • Susan Goldenstein • Mike Hagan Steve Hartman • Lou Henson • Hicksgas • Shawn Coady • Naomi Jakobsson Marsha Kaster • Lake of the Woods Golf Course • Joe Lamb • Brandon Lewis Dan Marker • Sharon Matthews • Julie McGown • McGown Photography Mettler Center • Allison Nickerson • Premier Sound and Design Mayor Jerry Schweighart • Staske Photography • Stone Creek Golf Club U of I Golf Course • University of Illinois Athletic Department Hilary Valentine • Jan VonBokel • Deanne Wattjes • Lynn Weckhorst Lynnette White-McIntyre • William M. Staerkel Planetarium Marjorie Williams • Willow Pond Golf Course.

Parkland Celebrates 40 Years

As part of Parkland’s 40th Anniversary year, each newsletter in 2007 will feature one of the Founders and some dates in Parkland’s history. We hope you enjoy this series. Please feel free to send an e-mail to jmcgown@parkland.edu if you are an alumnus and would like us to share a quote from you! Please see the back page of this newsletter.
SIUE Men’s Basketball Names Lennox Forrester New Head Coach

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has selected Lennox Forrester—assistant coach at Bradley University for the past five seasons—as the new head coach of Cougar men’s basketball.

“I am confident that Lennox has all the skill sets and the abilities to do an outstanding job,” said Dr. Brad Hewitt, SIUE’s Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. “As a coach and a teacher of the game, he has demonstrated his commitment to student-athletes on and off the court.”

The new coach is charged with taking the helm of the SIUE basketball program, which will spend one more season in NCAA Division II play before making the transition to NCAA Division I action in the 2008-2009 season. Forrester becomes the seventh men’s basketball coach in school history.

After an exhaustive national search, Hewitt said the decision to offer Forrester the position came down to “a superior recruiting strength in our primary areas,” Hewitt said. “We decided a new basketball coach needed to reflect SIUE’s commitment to excellence, academic integrity, service to the community and commitment to all its students,” he said.

Forrester earned a bachelor of arts in sociology at Evansville in 1992. He was a junior college All-American at Parkland College, where he graduated in 1990, before transferring to Evansville to finish his degree. He and his wife, Aretha, have a two-year-old daughter, Calaya.

Interested in receiving the newsletter by e-mail? Want to know about upcoming events, workshops, seminars at Parkland? Send an e-mail to jmrgown@parkland.edu with the word “Subscribe” in the subject line and we’ll add you to our e-list. It’s that easy!
Charitable Gifts

Charitable gifts to Parkland help us meet the needs of deserving students today, and help us reach others in the future. By giving wisely, you can achieve that same outcome, too.

Your gift to Parkland can take multiple forms and help you address a variety of personal financial goals. Do you want to make a significant gift during your lifetime, or would a gift as part of your estate work better? Do you have a particular asset you are thinking of donating? Do you want to increase your retirement income, or is your primary goal estate preservation? Are you carrying excess life insurance or a large balance in your retirement plan?

Here are some points to consider when weighing your options:

1. **Give now or give later?**
   
   A significant lifetime gift will give you maximum tax benefits, especially if you are in high earnings years. It can also be the simplest gift to arrange.

   You may, however, prefer to leave your assets and cash flow alone until your death, and instead make your gift through your estate. A will or revocable trust is used to make a gift from your estate. You may also use life insurance or the balance remaining in your retirement plan. These gifts help you keep your lifetime financial planning flexible, although they provide only limited income tax benefits.

2. **What assets to give?**
   
   **Cash**
   
   The easiest transaction to make. You are limited only by your cash flow and your inclination to draw from your cash reserves.

   **Appreciated securities**
   
   Get the same tax deduction as if you had given cash, but use stocks or bonds that cost you less than they are currently worth. Your deduction is based on market value, but you incur no capital gains liability on the transfer. It is one of the best tax incentives available.

   **Real estate**
   
   You can give real estate outright, transfer it in a part sale/part gift arrangement, use it to fund a life-income gift, or give your residence and reserve the right to live there.

   **Retirement account**
   
   The balance remaining in your retirement account after your death is subject to double taxation if it passes to your heirs; it is taxed both as income and as an estate asset. As a result, over 75% of the account value may go to taxes!

   **Appreciated property**
   
   You may be holding property like books, artwork, or equipment you no longer wish to maintain. Instead, these assets could bring real benefit to Parkland. There are particular IRS requirements to meet before you can deduct a gift of appreciated assets.

   Please contact Mike Hagan, Director of Planned and Major Gifts at mhagan@parkland.edu or at 217/351-2457.

2007 Scholarship Reception

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For the fall 2006 and spring 2007 semesters, the Parkland College Foundation awarded 241 scholarships to 207 students, totaling over $182,000. This year, the reception to honor these Salute/Trustees/Foundation scholarship recipients was held on Wednesday, April 18 in Parkland’s Gymnasium. Over 250 were in attendance for this annual event held from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Featured speakers this year were Dr. Joanne Huff and Jo Ann McGrain, both retired Parkland College faculty. Together they established the McGrain – Huff Scholarship for nursing students and Dr. Huff established the Catherine and Leo Huff Memorial Scholarship, in honor of her parents, also for nursing students.
The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) will name Parkland College Officer Yvonne Meyer as the 2007 Award for Merit winner at its annual conference in June. This award is presented to a public safety, police, or security employee of an IACLEA member campus who displays professionalism and excellence daily in performing his/her duties, or whose actions and attitude brings credit to the campus law enforcement community.

Officer Meyer has been at Parkland since 2003. As the College Relations Officer, she works closely with students in the college center; her efforts have led to a significant decrease in problems in that location. She also serves as an Emergency Medical Technician along with other members in the department, assisting many patrons on the campus in medical emergencies. Officer Meyer has been cited with two life-saving awards from the department in this role. She has been active in teaching R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) classes on campus and in the community for several years.

Meet Kris Fitzpatrick, Interim Executive Director/Chief of Police, University of Illinois Division of Public Safety

Despite scoring No. 3 on the Champaign county Sheriff’s exam, Kris Fitzpatrick was told she wouldn’t be hired as a deputy sheriff because she was female. It was the early 1970s, and only men were officers. She did receive valuable advice from the sheriff, however.

“He suggested that, if I was serious about this, I should come to Parkland College to get in the criminal justice program,” she said. Taking his advice, Kris enrolled in Parkland, graduating in 1975. She said then program coordinator Jim Whetstone “did an amazing job, not only for me, but for all minorities who wanted to get in this career.” Kris was hired at the University of Illinois as a police patrol officer in February 1977. Rising up the ranks over the years, she became assistant chief in 2002 and interim chief in 2005. Kris also earned a master’s degree from Eastern Illinois University and was accepted into a doctoral program in Education, Organization, and Leadership at the UI.

As UI’s Public Safety chief, Kris’ responsibilities include the overall management of the campus’ Police, Risk Management, and Emergency Planning offices. She supervises day-to-day organizational duties for a 100+ staff of sworn and civilian employees; develops policies; and provides feedback to the chancellor on the division’s emergency plans, safety statistics, and comparison with institutional peers.

“It’s not a stagnant position; you’re always looking ahead, being prepared for the future,” Kris said.

Professor Jamison wins ICCTA award

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association recently named Laura Jamison, associate professor of sociology and human services, the 2007 Outstanding Faculty Member for Parkland College. The award is given annually to recognize a Parkland College instructor whose achievements display innovation, extra effort, problem solving, and a commitment to stay current in his/her field.

Professor Jamison will be recognized at the ICCTA annual awards banquet in Springfield in June, where she will receive $1,000 for professional development. Her name will be added to the ICCTA awards plaque in the college’s Center for Excellence, and she will receive a plaque recognizing this accomplishment from Parkland’s Board of Trustees during its June meeting.

Professor Jamison joined the full-time faculty at Parkland in 1999, where she has contributed to the work of the Diversity Committee, the Academic Development Center Advisory Board, Brothers United Network, the International Education Committee, and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. She has also been a department chair and a Parkland College Association representative. Her service in the community includes work with the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, Crisis Nursery, Humane Society, and Prairie Center for Substance Abuse. Professor Jamison has been a member of the Training, Education and Coordinating Committee of East Central Illinois for several years.
Summer Dates in Parkland History

June 17, 1968
First commencement for certificate program held for twenty students

June 18, 1969
First Associate Degree commencement held with 125 graduates

July 1963
Original planning committee with five members met to discuss the need for broadening vocational education in the Champaign-Urbana area

July 1987
Dr. Paul Magelli named the second president

July 1, 1969
First Parkland graduate employed as full-time instructor

July 1, 1990
Dr. Zelema Harris began first day as Parkland’s third president

July 12, 1967
Name Parkland College chosen by board; site also chosen

July 15, 1965
Illinois Public Junior College Act passed

July 17, 1970
Ground broken for permanent campus

July 20, 1965
Steering committee organized to consider need for a community college

August 23, 1981
Parkland Art Gallery opened

Spotlight on: Dr. Lowell Fisher

Having served on many national and Illinois educational organizations, Dr. Fisher’s contributions locally included serving on the Urbana Board of Education from 1951 to 1972, co-chairing the East Central Illinois Junior College District 505 Steering Committee, and serving as president and vice-president of the Urbana Association of Commerce. Dr. Fisher also served on the Parkland College Foundation Board of Directors.

March 5, 1969 – Parkland College Foundation organized. A 1972 photo of four Foundation members. Seated: John Barr, President of the Foundation Board of Directors – signing a paper; Lowell B. Fisher, Vice President. Standing: Henry Green and Paul Kunkel, Executive Director of the Foundation. Photo courtesy of the Parkland College Library Archives.