20th Anniversary! William M. Staerkel Planetarium

On a warm, beautiful October evening, the Parkland College Foundation hosted a Gala to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the William M. Staerkel Planetarium on Parkland’s campus. The Planetarium lobby and tent outside over the Walk of Honor was filled with close to 200 Foundation donors, faculty, staff, and retired Parkland employees. The LaMonte Parsons Experience provided light jazz and candles lit the sparkling tables.

Those who gave a brief presentation that night included Harold Miller, former Parkland College Board of Trustees member, and Kyle Robeson, former Parkland College Foundation Board of Directors member, who read a letter he wrote to potential supporters of the Planetarium back in 1985. In addition, Interim President Tom Ramage provided remarks and insight.

Guests enjoyed delicious food and beverages from Classic Events catering that included Tang Slushies and homemade Moon Pies, as well as a chance to win raffle prizes and bid on silent auction items.

Thanks to the following who donated to the raffle and silent auction: Carl Zeiss Company, Orion Telescope and Binocular Center, Starr Limousine, Octave Chanute Air Museum, JMI Telescope, Larry Kanfer, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Pam Friese, Cinema Gallery, Moonstruck Chocolate Company, Jupiter’s, Smoothie King, Adler Planetarium in Chicago, and the Parkland Planetarium, Art Gallery, and Natural Sciences Department.

In all, nearly $17,000 was raised to help support the Planetarium’s planned digital equipment upgrade. Our success was possible through the efforts of the many volunteers, in particular the Planetarium administrator and staff, and donors.

We’d like to especially thank the supporters of this event:

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SUPERVALU

**Galactic Sponsors**
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Saturn of Champaign County

Message from the President

It’s hard to believe that it’s time for a Winter Update already…it seems like just yesterday we were starting our Fall semester. Most of you, I’m sure, are already preparing for family gatherings and before long your homes will be filled with the fragrant aromas of the holidays. It’s apropos that the end of the year is when we take the time to draw together our loved ones and celebrate the past year with thankfulness and joy.

Our students and faculty are winding down toward the end of the semester and preparing for their holiday breaks as well. The staff are planning their annual holiday celebrations on campus and cleaning up offices for the December break. Figuratively, the campus is preparing for its winter sleep. It is during this slumber, when the campus is quiet and dusted with snow, that it is often its most beautiful.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Update, where you’ll read about the success of our annual golf outing and the 20th anniversary celebration of the William M. Staerkel Planetarium. You’ll also get some ideas about year-end giving and estate planning.

As 2007 draws to a close, I want to thank all of you for your continued support of Parkland College and the Foundation. And, I wish you and your family the warmest holiday wishes and the happiest new year.

Thomas R. Ramage, Ed.D.
Interim President

The Devil in Me

“This American Life” is a radio show produced by Chicago Public Radio and is broadcast on National Public Radio stations across the United States. On September 9th, the story of two former Parkland College students and their journey toward understanding and mutual respect was featured. (“The Devil in Me”: episode 340)

“Sam Slaven is an Iraq War veteran who came home from the War plaqued by feelings of hate and anger toward Muslims. TAL (This American Life) producer Lisa Pollak tells the story of the unusual action Sam took to change himself, and the Muslim students who helped him do it.” (TAL web site).

Sam and Yousif Radeef tell how they met through the Parkland College Muslim Student Association, how they got to know each other, and how they changed each other’s lives. Both express their thoughts and feelings very freely and honestly.

Two CD copies of the episode are on reserve in the Parkland College Library. They are held under the department name of Student Life and may be checked out with a valid Parkland ID for 24 hours. The CD’s will be held on reserve for at least the remainder of the fall semester.
Spotlight on: Brad Busboom

Brad Busboom’s passion for the automobile began early in his life. From 2003 to 2004, he participated in the Automotive Youth Education System, which is a concurrent enrollment program for high school seniors who take Parkland College courses in the Automotive program.

Brad graduated from Unity High School in Tolono and began the following fall at Parkland. While at Parkland, Brad was a member of Phi Theta Kappa — Parkland’s Honor Society, and he was on the Dean’s list for two years. He was also very active with Parkland’s drag car, worked as an intern at Sullivan-Parkhill in Champaign, and he was the only one selected by the college to represent the AYES Program at the Chicago Auto Show.

“At Parkland, I learned more than just how to work on cars, I learned the skills necessary to successfully interact with people on a professional level, which in the end is one of the most valuable assets a person can attain. I can think of no other way to describe my time at Parkland (College) than a truly great experience, it rose above any expectations I could have had,” said Brad.

After Brad earned his Associate in Applied Science in Automotive Technology from Parkland in 2006, he transferred to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and enrolled in their nationally known automotive program. Brad has been on SIU’s honor roll and was selected in a highly competitive field to work as an intern at General Motors in Detroit in 2007. Brad’s internship work included analyzing Case Closure Rates and creating a Duramax Injector Database.

He will receive his Bachelor of Science degree in Automotive Technology from SIU in May 2008, and immediately begin his career at General Motors as a Service Engineer. His parents are Nancy Willamon and Maury and Kim Busboom. Congratulations, Brad! Best wishes on your future successes!
Year-End Giving

As the end of the year approaches, many pause, reflect, and plan. Thoughtfully addressing your charitable giving priorities between now and December 31 can help assure maximum benefits for you and your charitable interests. Carefully considering what to give, and when to give it, can help increase the impact of your gifts while helping to meet personal priorities as well.

**Enjoy Tax Savings**—Federal tax laws and those of many states make it possible to reduce or eliminate taxes on funds you give for charitable purposes. For example, because funds used to make charitable gifts are deducted from the amount otherwise subject to federal income tax when you itemize your deductions, you may be able to give more than you thought possible. The amount and timing of your charitable gifts are totally within your control. This is why each year millions of Americans take advantage of the opportunity to make charitable gifts while also reducing their tax liability.

**Gifts of Cash**—While all gifts mailed or otherwise delivered by December 31 qualify for tax deductibility for 2007, gifts of cash or by check are the most popular giving methods. Through gifts of cash, it is possible to eliminate or reduce income tax on up to 50% of your gross income. Larger gifts may result in tax savings in as many as six tax years. Remember, the higher your tax bracket, the more you save.

**Save More When You Give Other Assets**—Gifts of property such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other appropriate assets that have increased in value since you have owned them can result in extra tax savings. If you have held assets for longer than one year, you can generally give them and deduct their current value, including any paper profits from your taxable income. Congress has provided that in addition to regular tax savings, you do not have to pay capital gains tax on assets given to charity. This additional tax savings is one reason why some people choose to give their gifts in this way. Gifts of appreciated assets can eliminate tax on up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. The assets that are best to give are those that have increased the most in value and would result in the greatest capital gains tax if sold. Many also choose to give low-yielding assets, resulting in little or no impact on future spendable income.

**Leaving a Legacy**—Toward the end of each year, many people also review their long-range estate and financial plans. Wills, life insurance policies, retirement accounts, and other planning vehicles can offer exceptional opportunities for leaving a lasting legacy to charitable interests. As you review your plans, keep in mind recent tax law changes have resulted in lower estate and gift taxes for many Americans, leaving more assets available for loved ones and other priorities such as making charitable gifts.

For additional information about estate planning, please contact Mike Hagan, Director of Planned and Major Gifts at mhagan@parkland.edu or at 217/351-2457.
FORE!

Golf Outing sponsored by SUPERVALU and FedEx Ground

This year’s Parkland College Foundation Golf Outing sponsored by SUPERVALU and FedEx Ground raised over $12,000 that will be used by the Athletic Department for equipment, uniforms, and scholarships.

It was another sell-out of foursomes with a total of 116 golfers participating. Thank you for your support!

In addition to the title sponsors, the Foundation would also like to thank Jerry’s IGA, Barr Real Estate, Illinois American Water, Stocks Office Furniture, KI, ABC NewsChannel 15, GTPS Insurance Agency, Kraft, PersonalCare, and Cim-Tek Filtration.


Please mark your calendars for next year’s outing on Tuesday, September 9, 2008!

2007 Parkland Hall of Fame Inductees:

The Parkland College Foundation and Athletic Department are proud to announce the inaugural class for the Parkland College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Six individuals and two teams will be inducted on Saturday February 23, 2008. They will be introduced prior to the Men’s Basketball game and will be honored at a reception in the Parkland Student Lounge immediately after the game.

Honorees were nominated by former Parkland College coaches and administrators and were finalized on by a vote of the Hall of Fame committee.

Student-Athletes:

P.J. Bowman  Men’s Basketball (Member of 1986 National Champions, D-II All-American and member of University of Illinois Final Four team)

Russ Oliver  Men’s Basketball (NJCAA All-American from Urbana who went on to be a two-year starter at Baylor University)

David Patrick  Men’s Track And Field (NJCAA 600 meter and 400 hurdles champion. NCAA 400 hurdles champion at Tennessee and 1992 member of USA Olympic Team)

Coaches/Administrators:

Joe Abbey  Athletic Director and Track Coach (Started sports at PC, AD and Track Coach from 1968-1988)


Contributor:

Bob Abbuehl  (Former PC employee and supporter who served in many capacities from scorekeeper to statistician to bus driver for several Cobra teams)

Teams:

1986 Men’s Basketball Team  (National Champions)

1999 Women’s Volleyball Team  (National Champions)
Spotlight on: Dr. Eugene H. Mellon

A central Illinois native, Dr. Mellon was professionally active in education as a coach, principal, and superintendent until his retirement in 1967. Dr. Mellon was one of the founders of Parkland College, aided in the founding of Horace Mann Insurance Company, and served on the United Fund Board of Directors of Champaign.

Highlights in Parkland’s History

December 21, 1965
   Illinois Public Junior College Act passed

1979
   Parkland building listed in Museum of Modern Art show “Transformations in Modern Architecture”

January 12, 1976
   Gymnasium completed (see photo below)