Homer Bash Remembered

The Foundation lost a dear friend this winter with the passing of Homer Bash. In all, Mr. Bash has been responsible or influential in the establishment of four scholarships for second-year nursing students at Parkland College.

The first scholarship was endowed by Mr. Bash in November of 2001 and named the Mary Elizabeth Bash Memorial Nursing Scholarship endowment in memory of his wife. Recipients of this award must be enrolled in second-year clinical nursing course, have a 2.5 GPA in all nursing courses, an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0, and have financial need. He requested his children also contribute to the fund, and he was very touched to learn that one of his grandsons even gave a donation.

In late 2006, Mr. Bash established The Joseph S. and Sarah E. Bash Nursing Scholarship in memory of his parents.

And finally, two scholarship endowments were created by the Homer Bash family as a memorial to him. The Homer Harrison Bash Memorial Scholarship and the Charles R. and Louise M. Bash Scholarship. Both awards are given to second-year nursing students.

Thomas Bash, one of Homer’s sons, wrote the following about his father.

“The bedrock of Dad’s life was faith and family. Look at the family picture! Over his lifetime Pop had a positive impact on each person pictured and took great pride in the Bash name; a pride that began with his Dad Joseph who immigrated to the US from Lithuania in 1884. Pop worked with local historians to create a monument in the Picketsville (near Ludlow) area to honor our grandparents.

“I found notes from Dad’s Sunday school preparation on the importance of creating a positive environment for those around you versus reflecting a negative environment that circumstances might have created. Hundreds of people have told my siblings and me how Dad took encouraging actions for them over his lifetime. Those gifts will be long remembered and treasured.

Calendar of Events

June 25 – Mature Lifestyles Seminar, Wednesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Tony Noel Agricultural Technology Applications Center, RSVP at 217/351-2464

August 27 – Partners for Parkland 2008 Annual Campaign Kick-off, Wednesday, 5 p.m. Call 217/351-2458 for more information.

September 9 – Golf Outing Sponsored by SuperValu and FedEx Ground, Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. Call 217/351-2457 for more information.

October 24 – Annual Gala, Sky Car Drawing, Friday, 6 to 9 p.m., Round Barn Banquet Center. Call 217/351-2464 for more information.
Dear Friend,

In this issue of the Parkland Update, we take a look at some truly special individuals who have made a lasting impression on Parkland College and its future. Some are no longer with us, while others continue to inspire us with lives full of active community service. We’ll also take a brief journey inside the Parkland Pathway to Illinois, an exciting new program at the college that will allow qualified students be dually admitted to Parkland College and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Along with helpful tips on estate planning and a chance to attend an upcoming mature lifestyles seminar, you’ll discover the most recent ways alumni just like you are helping to support college students in need of financial assistance, through scholarships and other opportunities.

I invite you to peruse these Parkland family snapshots as well as the calendar of events that offer many unique ways for you to give back to a community college that appreciates and gladly serves its district and state. Enjoy.

In support of Parkland,

Thomas Ramage
President

“Pop was a master at dealing with his family, friends, and acquaintances with evenness. He never came to you with a pre-conceived idea on how you should solve a problem and tell you ‘here is the answer, do it.’ He helped you wrestle the issue yourself and come to your own conclusion with gentle nudges that made you feel you had arrived at the right place on your own.”

Mr. Bash was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Champaign, where he taught ninth-grade Sunday school for 15 years. He was named man of the year by the B’nai Brith for his leadership in community racial relations. And he was a 59-year member and past president of C-U Kiwanis Club and served on the National Council of Crime and Delinquency.

If you wish to contribute to the Homer Harrison Bash Memorial Scholarship, please go on-line to www.parkland.edu/foundation.

Save the Date!

Parkland Foundation Golf Outing
sponsored by FedEx Ground and SuperValu

Tuesday, September 9
Stone Creek Golf Club
Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Golf 12:30 p.m.

• great prizes
• shotgun start
• handicap/scramble
• three divisions
• For more information call 217/351-2457

Benefits Parkland College Athletics
Distinguished Alumnus Award – Dennis R. Riggs

Farmer and Sidney small business owner Dennis Riggs (’77, AAS, Engineering Science/Electronics Engineering) is a Parkland College alumnus with impressive civic involvement, business savvy, and community service. The 2008 News-Gazette Farm Leader of the Year, Riggs serves on the boards of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce (past president), and the CU in the Morning Networking Group (president), among others. He is co-founder of the Prairie Inet wireless broadband Internet company; helped implement the Rural House Numbering System for Champaign County; and helped develop a national Farm Bureau policy supporting yellow gas caps on E-85 vehicles.

Though his illustrious service on the Parkland College Foundation Board of Directors in the mid-1990s, Riggs helped develop both a program within the Parkland Electronics curriculum for visually impaired students and the college’s Agricultural Training Institute (1995). Host of the cable TV program “Champaign County Agriculture Today,” Riggs is a recipient of the Public Relations Society’s Silver Anvil award and is a Heritage FFA Honorary Chapter Farmer. He volunteers for numerous civic organizations including the Broadlands/Longview Fire Protection District and the Sidney Lions Club and is an on-farm host for Earth Partners, where he provides agriculture informational tours to school children. www.parkland.edu/foundation.

Dennis Riggs, on the left, is pictured with his wife Marcia, on the right, his sons Darin, serving in the US Navy, and Matt, training with the US Marines, and his daughter Megan, a 2007 graduate of Parkland College.

Alumni Feature

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Parkland College Alumni Association Membership Form

Become a member of the Alumni Association. As a member, you are entitled to: borrowing privileges at the Parkland Library; use of the Fitness Center via enrollment in NCR 850; invitations to Parkland College Alumni Association events; and more.

Type of membership:  □ Annual ($15) January to January  □ 3-year ($40) January to January  □ Life ($100)  □ Life - Family ($150) Spouse Only

Please charge my membership fee to:  □ VISA  □ MasterCard  Number _______________________________________

Exp. Date _________________________ Signature ______________________________________________________________

Name ____________________________________________ Social Security/ID Number _______________________________

Address __________________________________________ City ___________________________________________ State ______ Zip ________________________

Telephone __________________ Year Graduated _______ Degree ____________Program of Study _______________________ e-mail:  ______________________

Let others know what’s new with you! If you’re a Parkland graduate, or even if you’ve only taken one class, please complete the following and we’ll publish the information in our next newsletter.

Other institutions attended; degrees and awards earned ______________________________________________________________________________________

Name and place of employment and job title __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Personal news (spouse’s name, children, special interests and activities) __________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
Please use additional pages if necessary.

Mail completed form and membership fee to:  Parkland College Foundation, 2400 W. Bradley Avenue, Champaign, Illinois 61821-1899. For more information, call 217/351-2458.
For the first time ever, through a new program called the Parkland Pathway to Illinois, qualified students may be dually admitted to Parkland College and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Participating students enjoy the benefits of both campuses as they pursue their goal of a bachelor’s degree. Kris Young, vice president of academic services at Parkland, says the college is excited about this new opportunity for students. “By entering Parkland College and the University of Illinois simultaneously, students do not have to worry about having a seat at the UIUC when they transfer.”

Benefits of the program include:

• Parkland College tuition for the first two years, including selected courses at the University of Illinois campus
• Guaranteed admission to the University of Illinois if the student meets transfer requirements, including appropriate coursework and GPA
• Personalized mentoring and academic counseling with Parkland and UIUC staff
• Access to both Parkland and UIUC student resources including libraries, extracurricular opportunities and recreation
• Opportunity to live in University of Illinois housing
• Enrollment in at least one UIUC course in chosen major per semester

Parkland Pathway to Illinois’ pilot program begins in fall 2008, with 20 competing students selected for each UIUC participating college: the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences; the College of Engineering; and the College of Fine and Applied Arts. All students are welcome to apply; low-income, first-generation college, and underrepresented ethnic groups are particularly encouraged to apply. Current or former Illinois students, including program participants in the Intensive English Institute, are not eligible for this program.

To continue in the program, the coursework required of transfer applicants must be completed, and there are GPA requirements for each college. Additionally, students must maintain a full-time course load and must meet regularly with both a Parkland advisor and a UIUC representative. For more information on the Parkland Pathway to Illinois, please contact Dan Cullen, assistant director, UIUC Undergraduate Admissions, at 217/333-0302 or dcullen@uiuc.edu; or Jennifer Smith, advisor, Parkland Student Services, at 217/353-2002 or jensmith@parkland.edu.

On Friday, April 25, 2008, the Parkland College Foundation hosted its 27th Annual Arbor Day sponsored by the generosity of Illinois-American Water Company. Seven trees, which included an Appalachian Redbud, a Pink Dogwood, a Japanese Cedar, and a Trident maple among others, were planted in the Memorial Grove on campus in memory of loved ones. Those who participated in the program and dedicated their trees included community residents and former and current Parkland employees. One tree was dedicated For Peace on Earth by Jan Sabey. Below is the list of trees.

In memory of Virginia Allen
In memory of Joseph Martin Bosch
In memory of Ian Follis
In memory of Patricia Olson
For Peace on Earth
In memory of Gerald “Gerry” Watkin
In memory of Norma and Rolly Zimmer

If you are interested in participating in the Foundation’s Arbor Day dedication in 2009, held on the last Friday in April, please call 217/351-2464.
Estate Planning

Mature Lifestyles Seminar

The Foundation will host its Mature Lifestyles Seminar on Wednesday, June 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Tony Noel Agricultural Technology Applications Center. Featured speakers at this event are: John Elder, Meyer Capel Law Office, who will address Estate Planning issues; Lynne Barnes, Carle Foundation Hospital, who will present tips on Successful Aging; Dorothea Smith, Foundation Scholarship Donor, who will talk about Scholarship Endowments.

Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by June 23 to 217/351-2464.

What Legacy Will You Leave?

The search for significance and the desire to plan for the future lead many to ponder their legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave? A bequest is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you. In addition, a bequest may be an effective way to make a gift and lessen the burden of taxes on your family and on your estate.

You may make a bequest in several ways:

- Gift of a percentage of your estate
- Gift of a specific asset or dollar amount
- Gift of the residue of your estate

The following language is appropriate to use on IRA, insurance policy, or other beneficiary designation forms, as well as in your Will or Living Trust:

“I leave/give/bequeath (% of your estate; $ amount; residue) to The Parkland College Foundation, a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation located in Champaign, Illinois, to support Parkland College.”

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

Thanks to Your Generosity

Over 180 Students Honored

Thanks to the generosity of scholarship donors such as yourself, over 180 students were awarded 231 scholarships for a total of $185,000 in fall 2007 and spring 2008. This year those students were honored at our Annual Scholarship Reception on April 16.

One student wrote, “I can’t thank you enough for investing your hard-earned money into my education. It will be an investment in this great community, too. I come from a family of very little means, but my two sisters and I are dedicated to make(ing) a better life for ourselves through our education.”

Over 250 students, guests, parents, and donors attended the reception where remarks were made by Dr. Thomas Ramage, President of Parkland College; Mr. Robert Plecki, Regional President Champaign/Ford County BuseyBank; and Donald C. Dodds, Jr., President of the Parkland College Foundation Board of Directors.

Dorothea Smith, on the left, has endowed a scholarship with the Foundation to assist a part-time student returning to school to study either Engineering Science or Computer Information. On her right is Daniel Comeau who was a 2007-2008 recipient of the Trustees Scholarship, which is given to students in the upper 10% of their high school graduating class.

From the far left to right are Jo Ann McGrain, Joanne Huff, Lee Nettnin, Becky Dalton, and De Lora Parker, all donors who have established endowed scholarships with the Foundation.
Annual Gala in October!

Join us for our Annual Gala!
Friday, October 24
6 to 9 p.m.
Round Barn Banquet Center

You could win a 2009 Saturn Sky!

For more information call 217/351-2464.

It’s Simple and Easy
It must be Online Giving!

Want to provide funds for a scholarship or program at Parkland, but don’t want to write a check and pay postage? Consider making your gift ONLINE! The Parkland College Foundation accepts Visa, Master Card, and Discover on its secure website at www.parkland.edu/foundation.

You have the flexibility of choosing which fund or scholarship you want to support, and the one-page form is so easy to use!

Visit us online today or call 217/351-2464 to have your donation taken over the phone.

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