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Parkland College

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Prospectus News

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Your source for Parkland College News, Sports, Features and more.

Prospectus News

What makes an instructor interesting?

Humane Shaw
Instructor

There are quite a few factors that contribute towards whether or not a class is likeable or interesting to students, and instructors undoubtedly play an important role in regards to these factors. Students are in school to learn, and their overall experience is the most important component in their success. An instructor’s approach to their classroom and their willingness to help students improve their understanding is the key factor between the student getting an A or C.

Instructors have the power to help students elevate their grade. A difficult course can turn into a bearable, even enjoyable, experience all because of how well the instructors are engaging the class.

“I generally look for someone who is very interested in their field and is excited to teach others about it,” saysBeginning Major, Brittany Wells. “It’s nice to know that an instructor really passions about what they are teaching. It makes it easier to learn.”

The first day of class is also an important first impression. Instructors who let students know what their expectations are for the rest of the semester and give out a clear syllabus plan, are very well liked by students.

“It’s important for instructors to meet what they are expecting the students to achieve by the end of the beginning and stick to them,” Molly Rittenhouse, Assistant in the Dean of Health Professions, said.

According to students, having an instructor who always comes to lecture prepared and ready to teach, is always a big help. When an instructor comes to class unprepared, it makes students feel like they are not learning anything. For this reason, students that the teacher is engaged with his or her class and seems interested in their job, which creates an environment for students who are learning to want to learn.

“The best teachers are those who have come prepared, encourage friendly debate, and show students how they can make their own conclusions for the real world,” Rittenhouse elaborated. “It’s more about making students realize the differences they can make in their own lives and in the lives of others.”

Instructors who make an effort to get to know their students and make students to get to know each other also switch the classroom experiences. Engagement and participation of students together in discussions and group projects is an important aspect of being in a class, which enables students to the point of view of other people.

Instructors who put a lot of effort into what they do are the best for the rest of the students. Students want to work with a class where the instructor is taking the initiative of working hard and set an example.

“When a teacher has invested time and energy above and beyond their course material in me I feel like I need to meet them halfway in the effort I put into coursework,” third semester Sociology Major, Jennifer Brandt remarked.

Giving students a chance to ask questions about the topic being discussed, learning about the end of the class for questions, and listening to problems that students might be facing are also qualities that are typically looked for in a teacher.

“Most instructors are pretty good at letting students to speak up in class to make decisions on how to get things across. For example, if there is a question that’s been brought up and instructors make no effort to know their students, I’m paying to be here. I would appreciate at least being able to acknowledge my presence in my name.”

One thing students don’t like is instructors pushing them too hard in getting to know their classmates. Some people have social anxiety and it’s hard for them to talk to other people unless the situation feels comfortable. All the time, especially new students and people who face, students may find it difficult to talk to other people without a teacher pushing them to do so only.

Dr. Daniel Ryan works in his office on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. Ryan is the Coordinator for the First Year Experience II program.

Pho by Scott Wells/Prospectus News

Business Administration student Valerie Rohde studies in the Center for Academic Success on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Photo by Scott Wells/Prospectus News

According to the Center for Academic Success Coordinator, Eduardo Coronel, out of 59 students who have taken Pathway 109, 72 percent have been successful.

Students who take the course designed to assist traditional students, Pathway students, and athletics. There are even sub-departments of the course designed to assist Student Veterans.

According to Ryan, the course has three main areas of focus. The first is to connect students with each other, the second is to help them build relationships with faculty and other students and create a support system. The final is for students to become aware of all the student services Parkland has to offer, such as CAS, Career Services, Trio, the Library, and Counseling and Advising.

Ryan’s other role is Coordinator for First Year Experience. He’s been instrumental in the development of a school-wide mentoring program called the Connect Monitoring Program.

This new mentoring program is funded by the Illinois Grant, the same grant that funds the First Year Experience. It’s designed to improve retention for first-year students.

Photo by Scott Wells/Prospectus News

Students and Staff - Show current ID and receive $10 off application fee at Westgate Apartments

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GAP on P. 5

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Two no snowflakes are exactly the same. (Find the answer on page 8)

Gap on P. 5

Prospectus News
Illinois pays millions to keep inmates who are unable to find a home

CHICAGO (AP) – Illinois spends as much as $13 million a year to keep inmates in prison because they can’t find suitable places to live that meet the terms of their parole.

Nearly 1,250 inmates are held beyond their release dates each year, the Chicago Tribune reported. The issue mostly affects sex offenders, who face lifelong restrictions, as well as those subject to electronic monitoring as part of parole.

Correctional officials say the practice began about a decade ago. They’re frustrated by delays, but say they’re tied by restrictions on how close sex offenders can live to schools, parks and other places there are likely to be children. Just now beds in Illinois halfway houses are reserved for sex offenders, none of them in Cook County, according to officials.

Prosecutors must be released by the time their parole ends, which can be as long as three years. If held for the duration of their parole, they don’t receive any parole services when they get out.

“We believe it’s better to go back to society in a supervised fashion,” Illinois Department of Corrections spokeswoman Tia Thomas said. “We believe in the parole system.”

State officials said it costs nearly $22,000 per year to keep inmates in prison, while parole costs about $2,000.

Critics say the practice unfairly impacts inmates in prison because parole officers receive any parole services which can be as long as three years. If held for the duration of their parole, they don’t receive any parole services when they get out.

“The inmate in that case, Johnny Cordrey, was given a one-way bus ticket to Peoria to try to get into a Salvation Army shelter,” said Chicago attorney E. King Poor, who represented Cordrey. “I said, ‘Johnny, what are you going to do?’ He said, ‘I don’t know.’ That same story gets repeated over and over with other inmates.”

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Fact or Fiction?

FACT: The size, texture and shape of a snowflake is all determined by a variety of different factors, including the temperature and humidity when it was formed. The number of possible formations a snowflake can take at a molecular level is nearly infinity, so the odds of finding two snowflakes exactly alike is nearly zero.

Come join Parkland MSA for a panel discussion on WHAT IS HIJAB? In this panel we will discuss why women wear the hijab, what is the reason behind it, and many more topics. It will also be open mic so that anyone that has a question can come up and ask.

Thursday, Feb. 5 U-Wing Cafeteria 12-1 p.m.
PHILADELPHIA (AP) Customers to Girard Brasserie and Bruncherie might be in for a surprise when they read the note attached to their bill: “Tipping is not necessary.”

That’s food for thought in an industry where servers depend on gratuities for the bulk of their pay. Yet staff at the French-inspired restaurant earn about $13 an hour, and they get sick time, vacation days and health insurance.

The economics aren’t easy, said Girard co-owner Brian Oliveira. Ideally, the presents make for more loyal and content employees, who then create a better experience for customers, he said.

“We had to make less money as owners and sacrifice some of that, but it’s in the end, it created a better environment and everyone’s happier,” Oliveira said, who is also the chef.

The unusual model highlights a debate about pay and conditions in an industry that employs 10 percent of the U.S. workforce, according to the National Restaurant Association.

The group doesn’t track the number of no-tip models among the nation’s nearly 1 million eateries, but examples have popped up over the past three years in Pittsburgh, New York and more recently in Cincinnati.

The federal hourly minimum wage for non-tipped workers, such as dishwashers and cooks, is $2.75; the minimum for tipped workers like waiters and bartenders is $2.13. Paid time off and medical benefits are almost unheard of in the high-turnover business.

Congregors haven’t raised the tipped wage in nearly 25 years. This restaurant association, which has fought increased minimum wages, argues that requiring higher wages will force owners to lay off servers, cut worker’s hours or raise prices.

Some critics and states, acting to address growing income inequality, have raised the tipped wage on their own.

The federal hourly minimum wage of $8.25 an hour, or just over $17,000 per year for a full-time, full-year worker, is almost unheard of in the high-turnover business.

In Pennsylvania, the state minimum for tipped workers is $2.43 hourly. After taking tips into account, that translates into a median wage of $8.25 an hour, or just over $17,000 per year for a full-time employee, according to Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, an organization seeking to improve conditions in the field.

But tips offer the potential to earn a lot more and sometimes much more quickly than even a higher hourly wage might allow, said Geoff Bowman, a longtime bartender in Philadelphia.

Currently in between bar gigs, he earns $2.83 plus tips as a server at Dottie’s Duckpin, just few blocks from Girard in the city’s Fishtown section. Bowman acknowledged the lack of time off and health insurance he has faced “speed bumps and challenges” in a career he otherwise enjoys.


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At Girard, the menu and checks explain that “dishes are priced accordingly” to provide staff with higher wages and benefits. A fixed price, three-course dinner ranges from $31 to $42.

Kelly Ciccarello visited Girard shortly after its debut in late November, in part to support the idea of a better working environment. The cost of the meal was reasonable “equal to tipping, anyway” and she gave the food and service an glowing review on Yelp.

“There’s probably important to want to treat waitstaff well,” Ciccarello said.

So far only one employee, a dishwasher, has used a paid sick day; said Girard co-owner Cristian Mora. “Scheduling is harder than we imagined and margins are tight,” the new approach is “not for everyone,” he said.

“What people do make a very good living with the model as it is now, with the gross tipping here,” he said. But Mora, who also didn’t have health insurance for most of his 15-year restaurant career, said he’s glad to be part of the experiment.

He noted about half the customers are learning tips of 5 percent or 10 percent for a job well done what does blinds sides “a true gratuity.” alike to the European custom of learning a token amount for servers, who generally earn a living wage and have national health care.

Girard waitress Katie Breen, 31, says she’s been able to work almost full-time as the restaurant’s business has increased, yielding a decent paycheck on top of about $250 weekly in tips. “She’s making less money than at past serving jobs, but overall quality of life is better for her and her 3-year-old daughter.”

“I have a better schedule, I have health insurance,” Breen said. “I think that this is the best job that I have ever had.”

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Obama idea to trim college savings hits GOP opposition

WASHINGTON (AP) President Barack Obama’s proposal to scale back the tax benefits of college savings accounts is running into opposition from Republicans in Congress who say they have no intention of raising taxes on families trying to save money for their children’s education.

Obama’s plan would reduce the tax benefits of future contributions to the popular 529 college savings plans. Current accounts would be grandfathered, so existing funds could still grow and be withdrawn, tax-free.

The administration says all the additional tax revenue would be used to help expand and make permanent a $2,500 tax credit that families can use for education expenses. Under current law, the tax credit is scheduled to expire at the end of 2017.

“The president’s plan would consolidate education savings incentives into one vehicle and redirect the savings into the better-targeted American Opportunity Tax Credit, the White House says in an appended explanation of the proposal.

Obama laid out the proposal as part of this week’s State of the Union address. It is part of a broader effort by the Obama administration to simplify a sometimes confusing array of tax breaks designed to make higher education more affordable.

Obama is also proposing $60 billion plan to make the first two years of community or technical college free.

Congressional Republicans have embraced the effort to simplify the education tax breaks, but key GOP leaders adamantly oppose scaling back college-savings plans.

“Middle-income families that have worked hard and saved to send their children to college should receive our support, not a new tax bill to pay for the American Opportunity Tax Credit,” said Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich. “We oppose the president’s proposal.”

Senator John Barrasso, R-Wyo., said in an accompanying article in the conservative website The Federalist.

Congressional Republicans have proposed changes to college-savings plans to benefit lower-income families.

“To incentivize more better-off families with higher tax liabilities, in part because those families have a higher marginal tax rate,” the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arms of Congress, said in a 2012 report.

About 12 million families take advantage of college savings plans. About half were held by families with incomes over $100,000, according to a 2006 report by the AICPA.
### Sudoku (intermediate)

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

Need a little help? The hints page shows a logical order to solve the puzzle. Use it to identify the next square you should solve. Or use the answers page if you really get stuck.

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Sudoku #5

Intermediate Sudoku by KrazyDad, Volume 2, Book 2

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### Crossword

Method: Solve the clues and fit them where they will go.

A) Sweet and sour with a small drink (4,4)
B) Soprano Cecilia looking up a great deal, surrounded by some baritones (7)
C) Means of giving information to one guy in the services (14)
D) Groups that are one over the eight? (7)
E) Laid back sect developed localised variants of language (8)
F) Having a painful condition brought about by Jack's teeth? (11)
G) A near relative I see is said to be Teutonic (8)
H) It's a bleeding nuisance when I ham Ophelia badly (11)
I) Eric possibly is unemployed (4)
J) Yes, the German's snoring in the music (4); Garment from sail? Nonsense! (6)
K) Tend to look up (4)
L) An explosive noise after cutting top off fruit tree (7)
M) Could be montages of units of explosive power (8)
N) Old M; terribly sad following the end of Bolton Wanderers (6)
O) Old poem, one found among poems by misfits (8)
P) Frolics following music by singers (9)
Q) The quality of being impassive requires tolerance chiefly – in hard head (10)
R) Eponymous amphibian in time had a fool (a dolt) confused (4,2,4,4)
S) Consumes American drink without a hint of enthusiasm (4,2)
T) Heartlessly boast about one's years in position of superiority (7)
U) Every time that we should admit women only, the vicar comes round! (8)
V) The team look for a place in China (6)
W) A group of students. Yes, right (4)²
X) Focus attention on King of France wearing his nose backwards (4,2)}
To all SURS (State University Retirement System) PARTICIPANTS

HELP SUAA (State University Annuitants Association) PROTECT YOUR PENSIONS

SUAA has accomplished the following to date:

Because of differences between SURS and other pension systems, SUAA filed a Motion for Injunctive Relief in May 2014 to relieve the pressure in junction to bar the law from going into effect.

On November 20th, SUAA’s Motion to Strike the State’s Police Powers Defense, along with others, was granted. On November 21st, the Sangamon County Circuit Court entered a final declaratory judgment that the massive pension reductions (Public Act 98-0599) are unconstitutional and void in its entirety. SUAA will continue to fight these changes before the Illinois State Supreme Court next year (2015).

HELP – To date the SUAA Legal Fund has spent over $300,000 on legal fees. Please send your contributions to:

SUAA Legal Fund 217 E. Monroe Street, Suite 100 Springfield, IL 62701

HELP – Join the Parkland chapter of SUAA

For further information call: Robert Lawrence – (217) 840-2795
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Cervantes searchers find casket with his initials inscribed

**Jorge Sainz**
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) Experts searching for the remains of Miguel de Cervantes said Monday that they found wooden fragments of a casket bearing the initials “M.C.” with bones in and around them that appear to be Cervantes', the Spanish author of Don Quixote.

**CHICAGO (AP) Fans of the Grateful Dead want a campout-style atmosphere during three 50th anniversary concerts in July at Chicago's Soldier Field, but whether the venue will allow it is a question.**

Jeremy Davis, of Florida, started an online petition, which had about 1830 signatures by Saturday requesting that overnight parking be allowed in lots surrounding the stadium along Lake Michigan.

Officials in Chicago said many factors have to be considered, among them safety. Opening lots around Soldier Field for more than four hours prior to the show the typical time will take resources and coordination from police, the fire department and other agencies.

Jeremy Davis said it would keep the anticipated tens of thousands of fans from crowding downtown.