Black History Month commemorated at Parkland

"We, the committee for Black History Month, tried to get a variety of different presenters," Tanner-Harold said. "Nicholas Sanders put out a call for presenters, and we got a wonderful response from the faculty and staff. I think that we achieved getting a variety. There are lots of expertise, lots of skills and interests."  

Black History Month started off on Feb. 2 and 3 with the "Skywatchers of Altus" planetarium show. This continued every Friday and Saturday through the end of February. Tickets for adults are $6, and tickets for students, kids and seniors are $5.  

"Cornerstones: Celebrating These Black Writers" by Aaron Goslin was on Feb. 13 from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. in U140. "It is a presentation about how many people have a part of our American history, and how we have gotten where we are today."  

"I think it is important to learn about the history," Tanner-Harold said. "It is a good to highlight all of the achievements that African-Americans have done. It is really amazing to think about how many people have had a part of our American history, and how we have gotten where we are today."  

The Black History Month poster seen hanging on several bulletin boards and walls is also a source of pride for Tanner-Harold. "We are really proud of our poster this year," Tanner-Harold said. "Yes, it gives the dates and activities, but I think we've done really well with it. It has the iconic picture of the Olympic protest on it as it is the 50th anniversary of that protest. We really put a lot of time working, such as working with marketing, to put this poster together."  

The committee started working on getting events and presenters together in October of 2017. "I simply sent out an email to all staff members to be a part of the committee," Sanders said. "In addition, next year I would like for students to be a part of the committee as well."  

For more information on Parkland's Black History Month celebrations, visit parkland.edu/blackhistory.
Citing this year's roster's talent, team-wide work ethic, and excellent coaching staff, David Garcia, head coach for Parkland's baseball team, expressed high confidence in a successful season and being able to win yet another region championship.

"The Parkland Cobras have their first game on Feb. 17 in Tennes-see. The first home game is not until March 8 at 3 p.m. Garcia said the team roster, which has changed noticeably from last year thanks to new freshmen and transfers, features several players who are gaining interest from major league baseball scouts.

"We've really got five or six guys that have been filling out quite a bit of paperwork for major league teams," Garcia said. "It's good for our program and it's good for them to understand that an option is available to them after Parkland has always been producing guys that are ready for professional baseball.

Many of the players on the team are already signed or in the process to four-year universities in the fall, a situation that has been rare for the Cobras in recent years. "We've got guys that have signed in professional conferences," Garcia said. "We hear about it, because they're really focused on this year. For that, I'm very fortunate. We've got a great group of guys," Garcia said.

Garcia said some season goals include going for the Cobras' third straight region championship, but overall, he wants this baseball season to be successful.

"This season's sights are set on trying to be one of the best teams Park-land has ever had, on the field and off the field. So far, I'm very happy with what we've got. I think we're one of the best teams Parkland has ever had, and I'm excited to get out and play some games. I think our program is run and the daily expectations of being a Cobra," was the way Garcia put it.

The men's basketball team has five players that help win games and then our defense has been much better since the start of the year. Figueroa said. "Simply put, I expect us to compete every game and work hard to improve." He added that Garcia says the team is just now getting together over the season and the talent they have here on the team. "We grew," Garcia said. "In the begin-ning of the sea-son we weren't really together, but now we're really together, so it's a big difference."

"In the beginning of the season, we didn't know how to handle success but now we do. Once we win, we get in the gym and work harder," he said. "We just haven't been get-ting the job done, and it hurts being by a point, but we're going to get it together and we're going to start another winning streak again."

"The team had to overcome a lot this season according to Figueroa.

"I'm very fortunate. We've got a great group of guys," Garcia said. "My coaching staff is, to me, one of the biggest strengths Figueroa mentioned."

"The team is hopeful that they will start another winning streak again."

"The team trains hard in hopes of a successful remainder of the season.

"A typical day for our guys classes from 8 a.m.–2:30 p.m. practice from 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. and then at least one hour of study hall. That is four or five days a week depending on our game schedule," Figueroa said.

Some leading scorers to look out for at the next games are Latham, Nottingham, and Jordache Mavunga according to Figueroa.

For more information on the upcoming game times and updated scores, visit parkland.edu/athletics, and click on "men's basketball" on the left-hand side of the page.
COMICS & PUZZLES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

COMICS & PUZZLES

FACT OR FICTION

FICTION: Light and the force of gravity move at the same speed and take 492 seconds, or 8.2 minutes, at Earth’s average distance from the Sun to reach us.

CROSSWORD

Made by Gregory Carre

ACROSS

2 Cash crop used to make bluish-purple dye (6)
6 Sierra ______, not the soda pop (5)
7 A breed of cat with no fur (6)
8 What second place gets you in Pyeongchang (6)
9 Keeps a pool clean and smelly (8)
10 SpongeBob’s grumpy neighbor (9)
13 What diamonds are made of (8)
14 His last name likely inspired his recent album’s title (10)
15 King at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 (6)
16 A brain chemical perhaps a part of falling in love (8)
18 “Boom” goes the ______ (8)
22 He leant his first name to the teddy bear (9)
24 War of the ______, also a great Valentine’s Day gift (5)
25 North Carolina: “First in ______” (6)
26 Your date’s chocolate comes from this bean (5)

DOWN

1 The color of a Coldplay hit (6)
3 Invaded Russia in the winter (8)
4 A dessert or a shoemaker (7)
5 A Mediterranean island and a tree (6)
9 Bleached broccoli (11)
11 Where croissants are more beloved than maple syrup (6)
12 Adj., straight as a lightning bolt (7)
17 Tolkien’s old, wise wizard (7)
19 Once the largest contiguous land empire in history (8)
20 Nineties show about four friends (8)
21 Large hall or a component of the heart (6)
23 Winners of LII (6)

SUDOKU

ANSWERS FROM LAST WEEK

WebDonuts

In 2022, we celebrated 30 years. It's Friday the 13th!

WebDonuts

When did you first experience math? ask, unamused.

Fact or Fiction

FICTION: Light and the force of gravity move at the same speed and take 492 seconds, or 8.2 minutes, at Earth’s average distance from the Sun to reach us.
Tiny drug-delivering capsules could sustain transplanted insulin-producing cells for diabetics

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.—A drug-carrying microsphere within a cell-boring microcapsule could be the key to transplanting insulin-secreting pig pancreas cells into human patients whose own cells have been destroyed by type 1 diabetes.

In a new in vitro study by University of Illinois engineers, the insulin-secreting cells, called islets, showed increased viability and function after spending 21 days inside tiny capsules containing even tinier capsules bearing a drug that makes the cells more resilient to oxygen deprivation. The results were published in the journal Drug Delivery and Translational Research.

Researchers have been exploring ways to transplant pancreatic islets to treat type 1 diabetes long term, eliminating the need for continual glucose monitoring and insulin injections. However, there are a number of challenges to this approach.

"First, islets are very fragile and are also functional, so that they secrete insulin when exposed to glucose," said Illinois electrical and computer engineer Kevin Kim, the leader of the new study. Islets from humans are scarce, he said, but pig tissue is in abundant supply, and pig insulin has been used to treat diabetes since the 1920s.

Once islets are isolated from tissue, the next big challenge is to keep them alive and functioning after transplantation.

"To keep the transplanted cells from interacting with the recipient's immune system, they are packaged in tiny, impermeable capsules. The capsule size and porosity are important to allow oxygen and nutrients to reach the islets while keeping out immune cells. "The first few weeks after transplant are very crucial because these islets need oxygen and nutrients, but do not have blood vessels to provide them," said Hyungsoo Choi, the study's co-leader and a senior research engineer at Illinois. "Most critically, lack of oxygen is very toxic. It's called hypoxia, and that will destroy the islets." Kim and Choi have developed methods of making such microcapsules for various engineering applications and realized they could use the same techniques to make microcapsules for biological applications, such as drug delivery and cell transplants. Their method allows them to use materials of high viscosity, to precisely control production capacity, the researchers said.

"For a typical patient you'd need about 2 million capsules. Production with any other method we know can't meet that demand easily," Choi said. "We've demonstrated that we can produce 2 million capsules in a matter of 20 minutes or so," Kim said.

With such control and high production capacity, the researchers were able to make tiny microspheres that are loaded with a drug that improves cell viability and that function in hypoxic conditions. The microspheres were designed to provide an extended release of the drug over 21 days. Researchers packaged pig islets and the microspheres together within microcapsules, and over the next three weeks compared them with encapsulated islets that didn't have the drug-containing microspheres.

After 21 days, around 75 percent of the islets packaged with the drug-releasing microspheres remained viable, whereas only about 45 percent of the islets encapsulated on their own survived. The cells with the microspheres also maintained their ability to produce insulin in response to glucose at a significantly higher level than those without the microspheres.

Next, the researchers hope to test their microspheres within a microcapsule technique in small animals before looking toward larger animal or human trials.

Graduate students Benjamin Lew and Ju Yong Kim were co-authors of the paper. Kim and Choi are members of the Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory at Illinois, and Kim also is a professor of bioengineering and of materials science and engineering.
On Saturday Feb. 17, from 11 am to 2 pm, the Parkland dental hygiene program will be offering a free event called "Give Kids a Smile Day" to offer free kids’ dental clinics.

Children aged 1-2 will be able to walk into room L148 without an appointment, to get their teeth cleaned and have other hygiene checks.

The event is an annual event supported by Drs. Jeff Boyce, explained that the event will be staffed by both Parkland dental hygiene students, as well as many local dentists. It is also staffed by both Parkland dental hygiene students and local dentists.
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