

Matriculation to nearby community, state colleges rising

by Lauren Ranzino

Many students go to a community college or a state school to save money on tuition and board. In this horrendous economy, it is in the best interest of many students to save up so that they do not walk out of school with massive amounts of debt. No one can guarantee a scholarship or expect their parents to help pay for schooling. The most common schools for Parkland students to attend are listed below. Based on the Senior Edition of *The Trumpet* last year, Parkland matriculation was:

MATRICULATION

134 people attended *Lehigh Carbon Community College*;
75 attended all branches of *Pennsylvania State University*;
40 attended *Kutztown University*;
30 attended *Temple University*;
22 attended *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*;
21 attended *Bloomsburg University*;
19 attended *Northampton Community College*;
18 attended *West Chester University of Pennsylvania*.
Other popular schools included *De Sales University* and *Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania*.

As these were the highest matriculations in the school, it is important to inform students of the facts and figures of these colleges and universities. All public colleges are competitively ranked in the 2009 Barron's Profiles of American Colleges.

There are two important pieces of information one must consider for each

TUITION

Lehigh Carbon Community College - \$1,275 (Full time per semester)
Northampton Community College - \$231 per credit
Pennsylvania State University: Lehigh Valley
Freshman and Sophomore - \$11,442 (per academic year)
Junior and Senior - \$12,384 - \$13,204 (per academic year)

There are two important pieces of information one must consider for each

school - the admissions selectivity rating and the cost.

The admissions selectivity rating is on a scale of 99 to 60 based on *The Princeton Review Complete Book of Colleges, 2009 Edition*. This basically means that the lower the number, the more easily one would be accepted into the school. The deciding factor for many is usually the cost of the school. The school's tuition and board can be found in the book, 2009 Barron's Profiles of American Colleges.

Matt Assad, of the Morning Call, wrote an article on December 3, 2009, in reference to President Obama's appearance at LCCC, titled "Obama's visit to LCCC to spotlight the growing popularity of community colleges."

"LCCC's enrollment, now more than 11,000 students, is up 6.5 percent this year, and the school is already tracking a 22 percent increase in registration for the 2010 spring semester over last spring. Enrollment at Northampton Community College, also more than 11,000, has doubled since 2000, including an increase of more than 9 percent this past year. Its registrations for spring are 14 percent ahead of last year," said Assad.

ADMISSIONS SELECTIVITY RATING

Pennsylvania State University: Berks - 70
Pennsylvania State University : Lehigh Valley - 71
Kutztown University - 73
Temple University - 83
Indiana University of Pennsylvania - 66
Bloomsburg University - 77
West Chester University of Pennsylvania - 85
De Sales University - 78
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania - 71

TUITION and BOARD (per year)

Kutztown University - \$6,873/\$6,960
Temple University - \$10,802/\$8,518
Indiana University of Pennsylvania - \$6,604/\$5,000
Bloomsburg University - \$6,623/\$6,030
West Chester University of Pennsylvania - \$6,676/\$6,590
De Sales University - \$23,900/\$8,750
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania - \$6,678/\$6,188

Chess team checkmated, sends players on to individual tournament

by Aaron Spikol

The Parkland Chess Team, one of Parkland's lesser-known interscholastic activities, is also one of its most competitive. It has won the league championship three out of the past four years and in 2004 placed third at nationals. They were national champions in 1998. Though they failed to make districts this year, the team had only three losses and will be sending players on to compete in the individual tournament at the end of the season.

"It's exactly like football," said their coach, Mr. Levann, the former football coach and who has coached the chess team for ten years. "It's very cerebral. There's offense and defense, there's home and away games. We play a similar schedule, competing against all the same teams the football team does."

The chess team, though, is not organized under the PIAA but competes in the Lehigh Valley league in the United States Chess Federation (USCF). Their season includes an opening tournament, organized league games, a final district tournament if they qualify, and an end season individual tournament. Parkland chess players took first, second and third in the season opening individual tournament.

Chess Team members meet every Tuesday after school to practice. Practices consist of informal chess games meant to help improve skills.

In addition to team practice, a few members of the team compete in outside tournaments organized by the USCF. Senior Benjamin Fisher and sophomore

Kevin Santo, the first and second board players on the team respectively, both compete in outside competitions. Each has accumulated a national skill rating based on their tournament play over several years. The two currently have a skill around the 1800s. To provide perspective, each began in elementary school with a skill in the 100s. Grandmasters, who are the world's most elite players, have a skill of at least 2500. Each plays in a tournament about once every couple months. "It's like a puzzle," said Fisher, describing the

Chess team members of all skill are attracted to the club for two primary reasons: enjoyment of the game and a desire to improve. Coach Levann said that everyone who joins inevitably increases in skill. He has seen students over the course of four years steadily move up in team position.

As for quick tips to improve at chess, the players had few easy answers. "The main thing is to practice and play for fun," said Fisher. Typical tips for novice chess players, coming from Parkland's own and the USCF website, include



photo by Ashley Youwakim

Chess team members race against the clock to finish their game.

appeal of chess. "You see combinations open up and then you just go for it."

"You can win money," Santo added, highlighting an appeal of tournament play.

Parkland's team matches involve six 'boards' playing simultaneously and take place within a set time limit wherein each player has a certain amount of thinking time. When a player makes a move, they hit a button on the timer, putting the other player on the clock. If a player runs out of thinking time they lose the match. Regular league games allot 30 minutes of thinking time to each player, meaning a game could last one hour at the longest. Matches, however, rarely last that long. Some outside tournaments offer 'blitz' play, which gives each player only five minutes of thinking time, limiting games to ten minutes or less.

attempting to control the center of the board and castling early. More advanced players also memorize specific openings and counter openings. Chess games usually consist of three stages, a beginning, middle and an end game. Due to the exponentially expanding number of possible moves though, it is impossible for any player to rely on memorization for anything more than a few moves at a time. Inevitably the game comes down to which player reacts better to their opponent's strategy.

"The hardest part is staying focused," said Fisher. "When I play, about 50% of my thoughts are on girls and music, about 30% is on chess and 20% manages between the two." Other players agreed that concentration is a problem. If it is though, it does not show, judging by the level at which they play.

Blast from the past: Parkland 20 years ago

by Erica Shartle

Everyday, hundreds of students flood the halls of Parkland High School. They walk in texting their friends or listening to one last song on their iPod before classes start. Teachers teach with the aid of smart boards and the majority of classrooms have computers. Parkland, 20 years ago, was quite a different school. Teachers have come and gone throughout the years different students have attended the school, and perhaps the most obvious change, the school as relocated.

Before texting was invented, students were not constantly attached to their cell phones. Instead, students simply talked with friends before classes started and watched the passing people. The computers in the school were the first models of Apple PCs with no Internet. Students had to go to the library in order to do all their research instead of just typing their topic into Google. This also means they had to complete their school day with, no world wide web (www), facebook or email.

Other than the enormous technological stride that America has taken, not much has changed in high school. Students still had homework stress, peer pressures and friend problems. There was still the occasional fight breaking out in the hallway when everyone would stop and stare. However, students at Parkland relished the simple things rather than the newest technology.

"My favorite thing at the time was my friends and the opportunities that my teachers and coaches gave me," said 11th grade English teacher Mr. Schwarz. Eventually, Parkland's size increased and simple was not enough anymore.

Since Allentown had been growing in popularity, the Parkland school district had to expand. In 1999 the current high school was built. It had shiny new floors, a brand new auditorium and several gyms. Since the change to the new high school things have changed a bit but there are still many similarities between Parkland 20 years ago and now.