PARK UNIVERSITY

2023-25 IMPACT REPORT

OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

150 YEARS OF BUILDING A

legacy





Dear Friends of Park University,

For 150 years, Park University has provided students, regardless of their background or circumstance, the opportunity to pursue a transformative education. Today, the Carnegie Classification of Higher Education Institutions defines Park as both an Opportunity College – Higher Access, Higher Earnings, and a Professions-Focused Institution. Park University is just one of only 18 such institutions in the U.S.

The support of Park's community, including its donors, is an important part of this special mission. Alumni-endowed gifts to the education program and Honors Academy reflect the lasting impact Park's programs have on students. A record-breaking Giving Day and the annual Golf Scramble reflect the commitment the University's community has made to supporting Park's vision for transformative education. And the addition of Pat's Snack Shack (at Julian Field on the University's flagship campus in Parkville, Mo.) embodies a fundamental commitment which was present at Park's founding: we are a family.

The *2023-25 Impact Report: 150 Years of Building a Legacy* shows how Park University students are inheritors of a proud, 150-year legacy. Park's alumni are still change-makers at the frontiers of public service, education, technology, business and science. Your support, no matter how it is expressed, is vital to the University's ongoing work.

I thank you for your generosity and continued commitment at a time when we are looking eagerly toward what comes next. Together, we can carry this 150-year-old legacy well into the future.

Sincerely,

Kathrine Swanson, Ed.D.
Interim President
Park University

Family Legacy Making History:

Houston Rennack Annual Scholarship

Supporters of Park University who contribute their time, talent or financial resources can make a lasting impact – not only on those who benefit from their generosity, but also in their own lives.

While the University offers institutional scholarships, it is especially grateful for the many endowed and external scholarships and grants available. These resources greatly enhance the student experience and strengthen the Park University community as a whole.

One of our most generous opportunities for those pursuing education as a career? The Houston Rennack Annual Scholarship, established at Park University in 2021. This particular opportunity is a need-based fund that gifts $10,000 to a junior or senior tackling education as a career path at Park.

The scholarship is funded by JoAnn Rennack. Her brother left her an inheritance, which they had previously agreed would allow them to establish scholarships at their daughters' schools.

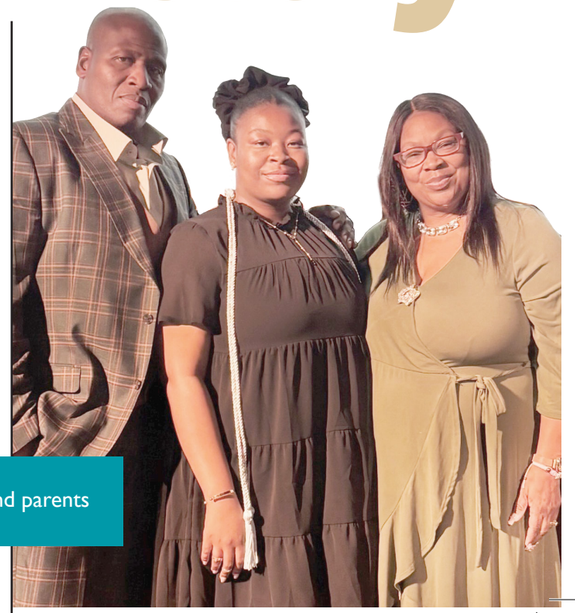
Rennack's daughter, Sydney, graduated from Park in 2010. "Sydney majored in elementary education and had kind words about her instructors. She would come home and talk about them. Each one had their own special place for her," Rennack said. Sydney is currently teaching in the Park Hill (Mo.) School District.

But her daughter's career path isn't the only thing that led Rennack to establish this fund for educators. She has decades of experience as an educator in the gifted and talented and parents as teachers programs. Education is a family business as Rennack's husband was also a teacher. "He still tutors math," Rennack said. "His degree was in math. It's just so important that we have good teachers in our schools."

The 2024-25 beneficiary of the Houston Rennack Annual Scholarship is Darlene Burson, an elementary education major from Springfield, Mo., who graduated in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Education degree.

continued

history



Darlene Burson (center) and parents

Family Legacy Making History:

Houston Rennack Annual Scholarship

continued

When asked about how her experience at Park expanded her interest in – and pursuit of – education as a career, Burson had nothing but positives to note. "Park University gave me a good structure on how to plan lessons, how to do classroom management and also helped with life outside of school," she said.

As for the impact the scholarship made in her education? "There were a few moments when I didn't know if I could finish," Burson admits. "The scholarship came in at the right time to let me finish."

Rennack hopes that the gift can inspire others to give back in their own ways. "I hope it encourages students to want to pay it back," she said. "We're aware that people have trouble making ends meet. Having been in the situation as a parent and having a child receive scholarships, it means so much. We wanted to do that, too."



Jeremy Barnes, '17

Honoring the Honors Program:

A Young Alumnus Gives Back

Jeremy Barnes, controller at ARCO National Construction, is a 2017 graduate of Park University. He chose to continue a cycle of good luck that began when he was at Park with a yearly scholarship.

"I have been fortunate early in my career and I credit success to the foundation set during my time at Park University and in the Honors Academy," he said. "Amid a crisis among my generation related to student loan debt, I will be forever thankful that Park afforded scholarships to cover tuition during my four years at (the flagship) Parkville (Mo.) Campus. While I may not be able to pay back every dollar of scholarships, I felt a personal obligation to give for the next generation of alumni."

Barnes' contributions specifically benefit Park's Honors Academy, which he admits was a big part of his transformative experience as a student. "I have always been fascinated with Park's history and perseverance to withstand tough times," he explained. A highlight during his time on campus? The Honors Academy, to which he donates generously every year alongside his corporation's matching gift.

The Honors Academy is a group of undergraduate students with a minimum cumulative 3.5 grade point average that are dedicated to three elements in their academic pursuits: academic excellence, service and leadership. Students must apply to be a part of the program, and benefits include honors housing opportunities, honors-only courses, study abroad experiences and additional adornments and program acknowledgments at graduation, among other perks.

continued



Joshua Mugg, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy and Honors Academy director, recently led a group of students around London and Oxford, England, as part of a study abroad trip.

Scan to learn more about the Honors Academy.

perseverance

Honoring the Honors Program:

A Young Alumnus Gives Back

continued

Learning and working alongside other inspiring students can make an impact. Barnes is proof that his lived experience at Park University led to the way he contributes to the community that lifted him up, specifically when he needed it.

Barnes advises, **"If you designate your contribution – as I have for the Honors Academy – the funds remain siloed for specific use.** You can choose to gift in a way that is both meaningful and impactful. You can donate to benefit a department that helped you get where you are today."

Barnes advises donors to check if their employer has a charitable matching program, which can help maximize contributions, regardless of how individuals choose to give back.



Professor Mugg and students at Westminster Abbey in London, England.







growth

A New Tradition Poised to Make a Lasting Impact

Park University started an annual Giving Day event in 2024. This 24-hour marathon accepts donations online, over the phone or mailed to the University, on behalf of featured programs across the campus. Its inaugural year raked in $17,675 with donations from faculty, staff, parents, students and friends of Park University.



Craig Harrison '17

Park University 2017 graduate and Giving Day donor Craig Harrison is a successful executive-level sale leader. He achieved his goal of graduating before the age of 50 – admittedly, just one month shy of it – with a Bachelor of Science degree in management, by utilizing the benefits of Park University's online offerings. "When I did my research, I was just blown away at their online curriculum and programs," he said. This led to his success in reaching his graduation goals, and now he likes to keep the lasting impact of Park University going through his own donations.

"What's really cool about Park's program is you can tell them where you want the funds to go," Harrison said. Niche programs such as the Park Global Warrior Center, the Pirate Pantry, International Student Services and the International Center for Music Piano Fund sit amongst more general donations, such as student scholarships and the Park Fund.

This year (2025), on its second go-around, Giving Day took place between noon on April 30 and noon on May 1. The University upped the ante and raised a total of $21,764. Harrison said, "It's just a really great school, it's a great experience and that's why I support it, both from a financial standpoint and from my personal standpoint."

While the online minimum donation is $5, donors can pay in any increment over the phone. Recurring gifts of $18.75 a month are encouraged in honor of the year Park University was founded, a personal touch to something that has lasting impact.

Contributing to the cause each spring is as easy as sharing the information about Giving Day on social media and telling friends and family about it!



New athletic accomplishment banners in Breckon Sports Center on the flagship Parkville (Mo.) Campus.

Winning Strategies for the Legacy of the Athletics Department

The Park University Golf Scramble has become an annual tradition that brings warmth and community to the links underneath gorgeous Midwest fall foliage. It is also a leading source of funding for the flagship Parkville (Mo.) Campus athletics department.

Every year in October, avid and casual golfers team up at The National Golf Club of Kansas City – home to the Pirates' men's and women's golf programs – for a brisk round of 18 holes. Participants also get to mix and mingle with student-athletes and coaches across all sports programs. Other opportunities such as on-course games, networking and flight prizes are also involved.

"Last year, we had Makayla Artis (a former women's basketball student-athlete who graduated in 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science/American politics) speak to all the attendees," said Parkville Campus Athletics Director Kristin Gillette. "She really stole the show in kicking off the event, talking about her experience at Park and what it meant to her to be a student-athlete all four years."

Funding the past two years, which totaled approximately $60,000, was used to upgrade the weight room, which benefits all athletes on campus. "We used 2023 and 2024 funds to update the equipment in our weight room to hold more racks," explained Gillette. "This was a huge improvement that occurred in December 2023 with funds from the golf tournament."

But the weight room isn't the only area of the Parkville Campus that benefitted from those two years of funding. "We bought banners to showcase all of our accomplishments," said Gillette. "All of a sudden, you start to realize, 'Wow we've got a lot of great history and success that we sometimes just forget.'" Allowing current student-athletes and those visiting their alma mater to see a physical representation of what this community can do is an inspiring focal point.



Weight room received equipment upgrades and new racks.

Among future projects Parkville athletics is eyeballing? Enhanced athletic game mats, a possible track and field high jump pit to directly expand how Park competes, and more items per the suggestion of the community and athletic staff. "I think every piece that we purchase is a sigh of relief," said Gillette. "It goes off my list. We get to spread the love around."

Those interested in donating to the University who wish to network, improve their golf game or fraternize with other alumni from all walks of life are encouraged to sign up for the yearly event.

"We can't thank our supporters enough. The money comes to the athletics department immediately," gushed Gillette. "It makes a huge impact for our programs."

Scan to learn more about Park Pirate Athletics.

Golf Scramble Sponsors*

ACS Building Services
Artisan ECM
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Carlos Riojas
CB Construction Services
Commerce Bank & Trust
Cruise Holiday of Kansas City
EducationDynamics, LLC
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
eShipping
Farha Roofing
Forvis Mazars
Fresh Ideas
Hi-Gene's Janitorial
Husch Blackwell LLP
JE Dunn Construction Company
Kansas City Chiefs
Keen Wealth Advisors
Lockton Companies, Inc.
Mara H. Cohara
McCownGordon Construction LLC
MTS Contracting Inc
NASDAQ
Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
NextPage, Inc
Otis Elevator Company
ProPrint Digital
Staco Electric Construction Co.
Straub Construction
Terry Calaway
The Fagan Company
Two West Advisors
UGA Finance
UMB
Walz Tetrick Advertising

Special Thanks To
4 Hands Brewing Co.
Central States Beverage
Coca-Cola
Guys Snacks
North Kansas City Beverage Co, Inc.
Russell Stover Chocolates
Scooters Coffee Parkville

**This list includes sponsors from the 2024 and 2025 events.*

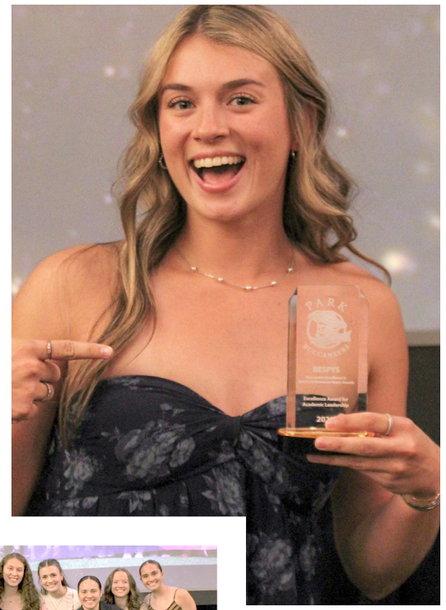
Driving Change:

Gilbert Golf Scramble Funds Upgrade the Student-Athlete Experience

Park University's Gilbert (Ariz.) Campus has celebrated notable success over the past two years through its annual Gilbert Golf Scramble event. Angelique Claussen, Gilbert Campus director of athletics, shared the following message reflecting on the impact and momentum generated by these initiatives:

"Proceeds from the 2024 and 2025 Gilbert Golf Scramble events totaled $17,100 and directly enhanced the student-athlete experience across several key areas. Funds supported team travel, equipment upgrades and recruitment efforts for multiple programs. Notably, a portion of the 2025 proceeds contributed to the end-of-year athletic awards ceremony, the BESPYs (Buccaneers Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly awards)."

With continued community engagement and investment, the Gilbert Campus athletics department looks ahead with confidence – committed to strengthening student development and building a future full of promise.







support

Scan to learn more about Park Buccaneers Athletics.



6th Street concession building new signage honoring Pat Fayard.

Pat's Snack Shack:

Pat Fayard's Lasting Legacy Under the Lights

If you have had the opportunity to attend an event at Julian Field on Park University's flagship Parkville (Mo.) Campus recently, you may have noticed Pat's Snack Shack, a new installment adjacent to the soccer field. The new hub to grab all of your game necessities is the product of a private donation made in the name of legacy.

Ryan Rink, '98, is the accomplished president of Two West Advisors and the son of longtime Park University employee Patricia (Pat) Fayard. Of the decision to move forward with this particular gift, Rink explained, "At Two West, we talk a lot about legacy helping families and organizations to think beyond numbers and focus on values, impact and story. This gift lets us live that out in a real way. It's also not every day you get the chance to create something that both honors someone you love and serves the community in a meaningful, tangible way."

And who better to have a lasting legacy on campus than Fayard? To understand Pat's Snack Shack is to know the woman behind it. The stuff of legends among students and staff alike for 38 years.

Fayard, who retired in 2023 after 22 years as the assistant to the athletic director and athletics office manager, also served as

continued

Pat's Snack Shack:

Pat Fayard's Lasting Legacy Under the Lights

continued

Pat Fayard and former work-study Brayden Piatt.



Park's cheerleading coach from 1987-2000. Her duties included assisting athletic teams with game-day operations, travel and budgeting. In addition, she was a secretary in the Academic Support Center and in food services. Fayard, who was inducted into the Park Athletics Wall of Honor in 2019 for meritorious service to the athletics department, was also a 2023 recipient of the Park University Alumni Association's Torchlighter Award, which honors individuals who have made significant, long-standing contributions and commitment to Park University, whether alumni, faculty or friend.

People invite her into their homes when she is in their neck of the woods – stateside, across Europe or otherwise. "Her top three favorite memories were students, students and students," Rink said.

Two West was specific about the gift, as they wanted it to reflect the warmth and fun that Fayard exudes in the campus community. They also wanted it to be incredibly useful to both the student-athletes and the wider Park community. "My mom has always had a way of making people feel like they belong, and we wanted that spirit to carry on," said Rink. "Plus, anyone who's ever been to a game knows how important snacks are!"

Rink knew the lasting impact this donation would give to the Park community. **"Legacy, to me, is about the impression you leave behind, not just in achievements, but in people's hearts," he expanded. "It's how you treat others, the values you pass down and the way your story keeps showing up even after you're no longer in the room. With this gift, we wanted [my mom's] legacy to be about joy, connection and service to a place she loved."**

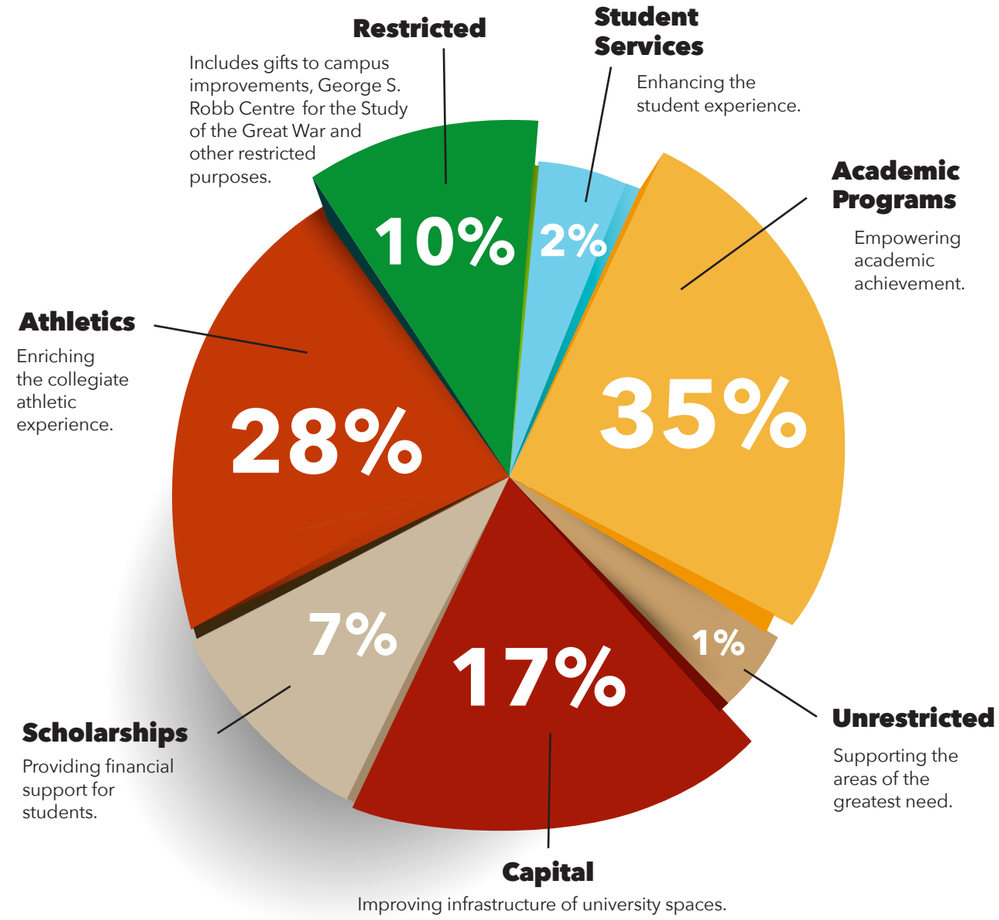
If you are at a game in the near future, make sure to stop by the stand and let the athletics team know how the snack selection is. It will be a staple in Parkville for all upcoming games.

Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations

Fundraising Success

Three-Year Fundraising Summary	**$6,825,339.39**

Diversity of Giving



STANISLAV & FRIENDS BENEFACTORS*

A very special thank you to our benefactors for investing in Park University's International Center for Music.

Brenda Althouse and Paul Fingersh
Jeffrey Anthony
Kay Barnes and Thomas Van Dyke
Andrew and Peggy Beal
Erik Bergrud, MPA '94 and Kimberlee Ried, MA '16
Jeanne and Joseph Brandmeyer
Brad and Marilyn Brewster
Tom and Mary Bet Brown
Lisa Browar
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Terry and Marlene Calaway
David and Laure Christensen, '16
Vince and Julie Clark
Rich Coble and Annette Luyben
Commerce Bank
Michael and Katheen Dodd
ECCO Select
Stanley Fisher and Rita Zhorov
Brad and Theresa Freilich
Patty Garney
David and Lorelei Gibson
Donald Hall
Doris Hamilton and Myron Sildon
Colleen and Ihab Hassan
Shirley and Barnett C. Helzberg Jr.
Lisa Merrill Hickok
Stanislav and Tatiana Ioudenitch
Steven Karbank
Marcia Karbank
Stephen and Marilyn Koshland
Laloo Family Fund
Lathrop GPM LLP
Benny and Edith Lee
Jay and Cindy Longbottom
Walter Love and Sarah Good
Brian McCallister / McCallister Law Firm
John and Jane McMillan
Mdivani Corporate Immigration Law Firm
Virginia Merrill
Jason Meyers and Sarah Moe
Jackie and John Middelkamp
Kate and John Mitchell
Susan Morgenthaler
Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation
Lewis and Sue Nerman
Holly Nielsen
Ronald and Phyllis Nolan
Robert and Marilyn O'Halloran
Timothy Pachasa
Susan and Charles Porter

The Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts - Commerce Bank, Trustee
Gary and Anita Robb
Charles and Elizabeth Schellhorn
Andrew and Kim Shoffner
Shane and Angela Smeed
Rob and Joelle Smith
John and Debra Starr
Steinway Piano Gallery of Kansas City
Greg and Barbara Storm
Steven and Evelina Swartzman
Melanie and Wayne Thompson
Guy Townsend
Mary Kay Von Erdmannsdorff
Gary and Lynette Wages
John and Angela Walker
Nicole and Myron Wang
Joyce Weiblen
Carl and Lynne Weilert
John and Karen Yungmeyer



2024 Honorary Co-Chairs
Phyllis and Ron Nolan



2025 Honorary Co-Chairs
Scott and Robin Boswell

This list includes sponsors from the 2024 and 2025 events.

Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations



MELISSA MOLLOY
Vice President of Advancement, Marketing and Communications
(816) 584-2135
melissa.molloy@park.edu



CELESTE LUPERCIO
Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations
(816) 584-6399
celeste.lupercio@park.edu



RILEY BROWN
Annual Giving and Stewardship Manager
(816) 584-6291
riley.brown@park.edu



JOMARIE MORTELLI
Advancement Services Manager
(816) 584-6815
jomarie.mortelli@park.edu



CATHERINE O'SULLIVAN
Director of Development and Alumni Engagement
(816) 584-6893
catherine.o'sullivan@park.edu



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-24

Andrew Shoffner, Ph.D.
Chairman

Terry Calaway, Ed.D.
Vice Chairman

Lynn Craghead
Secretary

Jeffrey Anthony
Treasurer

Mitzi Cardenas

Vince Clark

Mara Cohara, J.D.

Scott Gorman, Ph.D.

W. Ann Hansbrough, J.D.

Gary Henry, '89

Scott Jackman

Benny Lee

Sarah Moe

Timothy Pachasa, '18

Andrew Romer, '07

Carl Weilert

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-25

Terry Calaway, Ed.D.
Chairman

Scott Jackman
Vice Chairman

Mara Cohara, J.D.
Secretary

Jeffrey Anthony
Treasurer

Mitzi Cardenas

Vince Clark

Scott Gorman, Ph.D.

Andrea Hendricks, Ed.D.

Gary Henry, '89

Benny Lee

Sarah Moe

Timothy Pachasa, '18

Andrew Romer, '07

Merideth Rose, '06, MPA '08

Kathrine Swanson, Ed.D.

Carl Weilert

Special thanks to Meredith Schneider for her copywriting contribution that helped create the *2023-25 Impact Report: 150 Years of Building a Legacy.*

PARK UNIVERSITY℠
8700 NW River Park Drive
Parkville, MO 64152-3795

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 6112

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Your generosity shapes the future of Park University students.

ONLINE OR MAIL Quick and easy way to make an immediate impact.

STOCK OR SECURITIES Potential tax benefits while supporting Park.

GIFT-IN-KIND Provide equipment, tools or services students need.

IRA CHARITABLE GIFT If you're 70½+, make a tax-free gift directly from your IRA.

MATCHING GIFTS Ask your employer to match your contribution.

PLANNED GIFTS Create a legacy through your will or estate plan.

EVERY GIFT,
large or small, changes a student's life.

Scan to see more Park stories and ways to give back.