The Park Pioneer is published by the Development Office of The Park School of Buffalo. Please send your comments to development@theparkschool.org.

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE PARK SCHOOL OF BUFFALO FALL 2015

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LEGACY STUDENTS
Park is proud to serve generations. Legacy students are the children and grandchildren of Park alumni.

FRONT ROW: Nadia George, Evelyn Akiwumi, Marianne Akiwumi, Van Stevenson, Elsa Stevenson, Holly Stevenson, Finnegan Cook, Keaghan Cook, Colin Sprague
MIDDLE ROW: Erik Higgins, Calvin Higgins, Joshua Letner, Mia Koessler, Myke Cerrotto, Taka Cerrotto, Bristol Sprague, Carter Sprague, Will Derrick, Eli Swing, Oliver Powell
BACK ROW: Chris Wadsworth, Flora Kraatz, Jo Stevens, Mia Stevens, Summer Harris, Sydney Pfeifer, Maggie Parks
ABSENT: Lily Abdelman

THE MAGAZINE OF THE PARK SCHOOL OF BUFFALO FALL 2015

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ON THE COVER: Jordan Nwora ’16 (6’8”) and Mia Reich ’28 (3’8”) piggy-backed to dramatize the height of sunflowers that are part of the Planting Park’s Future Campaign. Why sunflowers? Find the answer on page 23.
2020 Vision

HOW IS STRATEGIC PLANNING LIKE MAKING MAPLE SYRUP?

This summer my family and I visited an alumna who lives on a dairy farm in Vermont. I don’t know much about farming, and I was eager to learn more. I also thought it would be a good educational experience for my kids. We set aside time to go into the woods and gather maple sap, which they enjoy every day.

The farm tour was an eye-opener for me. I was struck by how sophisticated the operation was and how well-balanced the various parts of the farm ecosystem were with one another. I also got the sense of a different type of intelligence at work than the type I am used to encountering in academia, one which marries the hard-won practical knowledge of the multiple generations working the farm with the rhythms of the natural world. And, of course, I left admiring the plain old hard work that needs to get done every day to make the place run.

On this particular farm a maple sugar operation. Thousands of maple trees are tapped with sap lines networked to a single sugar house. Every year these taps are checked or replaced so that when the weather is right, maple sap can run back along the lines to large collection tanks. This sap is clear and thin and sweet. Once enough sap is collected a wood-fired boiler is stoked and the sap is evaporated, recaptured, and evaporated again in a cycle that eventually yields syrup. I am sure I don’t do justice to the sophistication of this process, but it seems an apt metaphor for the strategic planning process in which Park is currently engaged.

The Process

In the winter and spring of 2015, Park held focus groups with all of its local constituents. The central question of these group meetings was, “What would we like Park to look like five years from now?” We asked this question of all of our students, from three- and four-year-olds to graduating seniors. We asked our Board of Trustees, our Foundation Board, and the Board of Visitors. We asked our faculty and administrators and local alumni and current parents. For seven hours in total, these group meetings yielded more than 80 indicators of what Park believes is important.

We asked this question currently, at a time when we really need the guidance of the larger Park School community, and boy did the sap flow! During the spring and summer of 2015 a Strategic Planning Committee was formed that began to sort through all of this information and boil it down.

Mission and Vision

To begin making sense of the community’s wisdom, the Committee first looked at Park’s Mission and Vision Statements. It became very clear, very quickly that our mission statement both accurately reflects what we do and is too narrow and too self-referential to drive our work. The Park School engages the whole student in a diverse and creative community that nurtures the joy and responsibility of active learning in all, from our youngest learners in our Kindergarten program, who have the skills needed to collaborate and the confidence to serve and lead.

It was quickly settled, with more than a little relief, that we do not need to revamp our mission statement and could turn our attention to a vision for the next five years. This has yielded a robust conversation that is still ongoing as the Strategic Planning Committee continues its work. While it is too soon to share the details of a refined vision, the gist of our thinking, guided by the community, is that over the next five years we will collectively work to “raise expectations and realize our potential.” I’ll expand on this in subsequent updates.

Some Big Ideas

What I can share is that the initial information-gathering process has yielded more than 50 different goals and initiatives in the following operational areas: Identity, Enrollment, Finances, Facilities and Infrastructure, and Public Purpose. What I can share is that the initial information-gathering process has yielded more than 50 different goals and initiatives in the following operational areas: Identity, Enrollment, Finances, Facilities and Infrastructure, and Public Purpose.

Our STEAM initiatives have been stimulated in part by a generous grant from The John R. Oiski Foundation to spur STEAM collaborations among the 16 private and independent high schools in Western New York. Park has used these funds to create a biotechnology course, an intelligence and informatics course, and a stem cell medicine lab. This is because we believe that if the students learn in these courses to prepare them for advanced education in the physical sciences, if they are predisposed to this educational and career path, they will be able to make an important contribution in that high-demand area and be able to define the twenty-first century. To affirm this need we look no farther than the biomedical research, education, and clinical practice that are the defining the burgeoning Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Our Green initiatives grow out of an understanding that our campus is a unique resource that is perfect for connecting students with nature. It is easy to have a teaching environment with 54 acres that include a pond and a marsh, and we have the unique ability to make the natural world come to life for our students by connecting their classroom learning with field experiences conducted through a partnership with Earth Spirit, a naturalist program housed at the University at Buffalo.

Regardless of whether Park students go into a career in the sciences, we feel it is important that we educate students to be solid “citizen scientists,” with the habits of mind to be familiar with the technical aspects of an increasingly complex world. We also hope that these students continue to be discerning thinkers who fully participate in the democratic process.

We have also come to realize that our public purpose as a private institution is the stewardship and sharing of our campus resources with other schools in Western New York, so that their students can enjoy the same enriched educational experiences as Park School students. In 2015, I fully anticipate a robust partnership with area schools, centered around our new science building, that has dreams if not hundreds of students per year doing some form of science fieldwork on Park’s campus side by side with Park students and faculty.

CAMPUS REVITALIZATION

Park’s proposed new science building, The Knopp-Hailpern Center, will enable the curricular growth we have experienced during the last five years and be a place that will physically honor this work. As we begin to contemplate the specifications of a new building, we are also confronted by the reality that many of our current buildings are in need of some renovation.

By 2020 I suspect that we will have not just erected a new building, but have continued to thoughtfully implement changes in our campus infrastructure that will more fully allow us to realize the potential of our educational program.

EXPANDING OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Park’s middle school program is probably the best in Western New York, despite being one of the smallest, with approximately 70 students enrolled across grades five through eight. The intimacy of this program is a double-edged sword. On one hand, we believe that such a deliberately small community allows students to be known and well-supported as they navigate the turbulent waters of early adolescence. On the other hand, there is such a thing as being “too small” and “know too well,” leading to some students. With this in mind I know that we will be working hard over the next few years to expand Park’s middle school enrollment to well over 100 students, which is in par with the number of students in both our lower and upper school divisions.

The Value of a Plan

Within independent school circles there is a debate regarding strategic planning. This debate is not about being strategic – it makes perfect sense for schools to think about the future and strive for continuous improvement. Rather, the debate is twofold. It is centered first on the process of planning and whether a dynamic organization, such as a school, can really look five years down the road. Second, there is a question about whether a plan is really necessary or efficacious, or whether a strategic “shunt” or “strain” would better serve the organization.

This debate has certainly captured my attention again as Park strategizes for the future. While I have yet to locate myself within the various schools of thought regarding strategic planning, I have learned a fair amount over the last eight years as a head of school who is trying to be strategic.

The first thing I have learned was the value of strategic thinking, regardless of the form it takes. Each summer Park’s administrative team reflects on the year that has just concluded, and every year I am struck by how closely we have aligned our work to our strategic priorities even though we only formally refer to Park’s strategic plan a few times throughout the year. My sense is that the ongoing process of strategic thinking has allowed us to internalize those parts of our work that must be accomplished on a daily basis to move the School forward.

I HAVECOME TO LEARN THAT IT IS NOT ONE BIG CHANGE THAT IMPROVES AN ORGANIZATION, BUT IT IS INSTEAD HUNDREDS OF REFINEMENTS BOTH LARGE AND SMALL, RELENTLESSLY PURSUED BY A DEDICATED TEAM. THIS ORGANIZATIONAL ALIGNMENT TO A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IS A POWERFUL FORCE.”

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It is fairly settled that the next five years will see Park continue to focus on how we teach science. This is embodied in both our Green signature program, which focuses on the natural sciences, and our more recent initiatives in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum, which tends to incorporate more of the physical sciences.
In May, Head of School Chris Lauricella said:

“Jacky has been kind enough to share with me how overwhelmed he was by the warmth and generosity his family experienced as they resettled in Buffalo, and the role that The Park School played in this. From what I can tell, Jacky and Eliane were equally generous with their time and attention throughout the years, nurturing and maintaining generations of Park School students. Perhaps my favorite Dr. Knopp story involves Raoul Haippern. Apparently they were pressed into service one day by then-Headmaster E. Barton Temple. I remember Jacky and Eliane being such a delight to work with, explaining their work at Park and all that it entailed. The next day Jacky wandered into class and said, “I have to prepare you for the SATs,” and proceeded to teach us enough solid geometry and trigonometry (which we had not been studying up to that point) in a short month to have us pass the exams with flying colors. Four of us got into Harvard that year! This was typical of Knopp’s nonchalance, but also of his very sharp analysis of just how capable his students were. In his lower math classes (like geometry for seniors) he could be a little bit impatient with people who didn’t get it at the first go around. So he could be a little harsh with those people: “X is not getting such and such a concept,” and he proceeded to explain it again, sometimes with a bit of sarcasm thrown in.

My favorite recollection of Jacky is working with him in the bookstore, which he loved. I would go to whoever I had free time and he would put me to work on whatever task he had. It was a very pleasurable experience, he was never impatient, and always helpful. My experience with Jacky as soccer coach was a less happy one. I was slow, lazy, and didn’t really want to play soccer. I was relegated to the bench and when running usually brought up the rear. He didn’t get impatient with me, but he made up his mind that I was hopeless at soccer.

Philip V. Oppenheimer ’57

I remain continually grateful for the rigor of Dr. Knopp’s teaching methods which instilled a love of numbers and their relationships and instilled a discipline that has served me well in life and my career. I owe much to his influence.

Barbara Brizdle ’61

I remember Jacky Knopp with much fondness. He was personable and engaging, and always seemed to make his teaching come alive. In fact, when I think back to my days in Park, Jacky is always present and center. To say he was instrumental in my education would be an understatement. From remedial work as a youngster in his kitchen to math classes in Hamlin, he was always an insightful and caring teacher… and family friend.

Bob Montgomery ’55

Few people have had such a positive influence on the lives of others as Jacky Knopp. I first met him in September 1951 as my Park School high school experience began. He was standing behind the counter of the bookstore located in the Main Building (now called Hamlin Hall), for which he acted as the CEO, CFO, Chief Purchasing Agent, and all the other needed cooks and bottle washers. I

In May, the School announced that the new science facility that is the centerpiece of the current SciencePark capital campaign will be named The Knopp-Haippern Center in honor of Dr. Knopp and Dr. Raoul Haippern, also a cherished long-time Park math teacher. Together, Jacky and Raoul touched the lives of thousands of Park students, faculty and staff, and parents. They embodied the habits of mind Park seeks to instill in its students: curiosity, keen observations, rigorous questioning, hypothesizing, predicting, investigating, interpreting, and cogent communication.

"HE WAS PERSONABLE AND ENGAGING AND ALWAYS SEEMED TO MAKE TEACHING COME ALIVE."

>> BARBARA BRIZDLE ’61

Jacky Knopp with his daughter, Julie.

Arthur Steinberg ’54

I was in the class of ’54 along with a bunch of guys who were good at math. Four of us took Knopp’s fourth-year class which was a random collection of more advanced math topics. One day in December Jacky wandered into class and said, “I have to prepare you for the SATs,” and proceeded to teach us enough solid geometry and trigonometry (which we had not been studying up to that point) in a short month to have us pass the exams with flying colors. Four of us got into Harvard that year! This was typical of Knopp’s nonchalance, but also of his very sharp analysis of just how capable his students were. In his lower math classes (like geometry for seniors) he could be a little bit impatient with people who didn’t get it at the first go around. So he could be a little harsh with those people: “X is not getting such and such a concept,” and he proceeded to explain it again, sometimes with a bit of sarcasm thrown in.

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Greta Benjamin Berkson '55

Nancy Morrison Weiser and I were to meet the Knopps for lunch and an afternoon visit at their Florida home. We had seen them at Park reunions and other events over the years but this was to be an opportunity for a private visit and get-together.

En route we spoke of many things that had happened to each of us almost 60 years ago. A particular occurrence that I have never forgotten and which happened during an especially difficult math class came to mind. Dr. Knopp became frustrated by two members of his class who were clearly not his star math students. In a pique of exasperation, he shouted “Benjamin, Blefield, stop chowing!” Obviously, Dolby Blefield’s and my gum chewing was not contributing to our comprehension of the material being studied. Recently, while greeting the Knopps in the foyer of their condo, we were introduced to Elaine to a couple of their neighbors as “Jacky’s students.” The folks looked more than a little surprised and then went on their way. Elaine quietly commended, “Can you imagine describing two very grey haired humans as Jacky’s students? Whatever will they think.” And we all laugh out laughing. Spanning two years, many memories, all fond and grateful to have had the Knopps as a part of our lives.

Patricia Burns Richardson ’60

I have been a Knopp admirer from my Park days, although I was a unusually poor math student from his point of view, or anyone’s. It was truly wonderful to see Jacky and Elaine at our reunions.

Barbara Dodd Murray ’60

Most people remember a favorite teacher. I know I do. But what makes a teacher a favorite, and therefore memorable?

For me, it was Jacky Knopp’s positive attitude, his respect for me, his belief in me, and his enduring patience and kindness, along with his mathematical ability and wisdom.

At one time, in his geometry class, I found it far more interesting to sit in the back row, next to a good looking boy, than to pay attention to the lesson Jacky was teaching. With his great smile, he suggested that if I sat in the front row, I might pay better attention and learn! I learned geometry in spite of myself, and learned to like it, thanks to Jacky Knopp, who persisted in his calm, steady manner to help us all learn and understand.

Jacky Knopp was a real gentleman. There was an unmistakable dignity about his steady manner to help us all learn and understand.

On October 31, 1956, he was teaching math overlooking the swimming pool on the second floor while all the boys were secretly listening to Don Lennon pinch a perfect game in the World Series on our “2 transistor pocket radios.” Eventually he said something to the effect, “this is really special… run all the rules up loud so we all can hear… class dismissed.”

Most importantly Dr. Knopp made math “sing” for me. He made it fun and as an engineer that is a good thing. I owe him a lot.

C. Allan Ryan ’46

In memory of my tennis mentor. Life experience inevitably includes those we love, admire, respect and thank for the positive influence they brought to our lives. In my life, Jacky Knopp is one of those people who fell in line not too far behind Mom and Dad. He made an indelible mark on me when he patiently took his tennis racket in hand and spent many hours on the court teaching me how to play when I was a seven or so old Park.

His ability at the game was truly professional for when we practiced he would carefully be on the half court to the forehand and backhand often tossed into the night and left corner of the court. As I look back at the patience, anticipation, and encouragement he gave me, you should not be surprised that I played the game with a dedication and fervor that would continue for the next thirty years, playing outdoors or indoors two or three times a week.

When our lives are blessed with the powerfully supporting and loving influences as he gave as my teacher, all we can do is accept the gratitude. I was a sit-a-at-a-shop all day office worker for thirty-four years and it was the game of tennis that gave me exercise, the key to better health. Thank you, thank you, Mr. Knopp. If you are tennis coach in heaven, Jacky, I’ll see you on court.

Polly Alf Mathys ’62

I had Dr. Knopp for multiple mathematics classes. I loved the stuff and went on to major in Math in college, so he was absolutely my kind of math teacher. High standards! Oh my, yes. But the remarkable thing is that he had different standards for each student based on your math ability as he assessed it. One time we had a typical Knopp Test. It was not my best performance by far, and he let me know it. He handed the test back and said to me, “You’re slipping, Miss Alf.” And he handed a test back to a boy whose skills were in other subjects and he said, “Mr. B., don’t let it go to your head.” I looked over and we had the same test. The comparison made in that moment to me (“You are capable of so much more”) was not lost on me, and I tried furiously never to disappoint him again.

Three years ago at our 50th reunion, Dr. Knopp was there. He was physically frail, but we were star-struck teams streamming around a rock star. His manner with us was extraordinary, because he clearly remembered personal details about several of us. What a giant of a man!

Sydney Elster Goldstein ’54

Jacky and I arrived at Park in the 1948 - 1949 school year. We lived in the same neighborhood and he often rode the Park School bus. However, I did not really get to know him until two years later when I entered the Upper School. He was my math teacher and his classes were always interesting.

His “off the cuff” remarks were priceless, although as very young freshmen I don’t think we really appreciated their sharpness if not quite sarcasm. As a sophomore I had him for geometry, my bete noir. Jacky was kindness itself, and he said, “Mr. B., don’t let it go to your head.” I looked over and we had the same test. The comparison made in that moment to me (“You are capable of so much more”) was not lost on me, and I tried furiously never to disappoint him again.

On a lighter note, on October 8, 1956, he was teaching math overlooking the swimming pool on the second floor while all the boys were secretly listening to Don Lennon pinch a perfect game in the World Series on our “2 transistor pocket radios.” Eventually he said something to the effect, “this is really special… run all the rules up loud so we all can hear… class dismissed.”

WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT THE KNOPP FAMILY HAS DESIGNATED THE PARK SCHOOL AS A RECIPIENT FOR MEMORIAL GIFTS.

Gretta Schneider ’57 and Joe Allen ’57 with Mrs. Chapin in October 2015

Dr. Raoul Hailpern and Dr. Jacky Knopp

Dr. Raoul Hailpern and Dr. Jacky Knopp

Corning “Terry” Townsend ’60

Remembering Jane Chapin, 1917 - 2015

At the Chapin Hall dedication in 1969

Jane Chapin and her husband, former headmaster E. Barton Chapin, Jr., in 1954

It is with much sadness that we share news of the passing of Jane W. Chapin on November 2, 2015, in Bath, Maine. She was 98.

Mrs. Chapin joined the Park School community when her last-born, former headmaster, E. Barton Chapin, Jr., began teaching at Park in 1948. Mrs. Chapin became headmistress in 1951 and served in that position until 1971.

Mrs. Chapin is remembered by Park School colleagues and families as a kind and gracious woman who embraced her role as the headmaster’s wife. She welcomed new faculty and their families as they came to work as the School and hosted innumerable events at the headmaster’s house on campus throughout their time of residence. Mrs. Chapin also served as college counselor during some of her years at Park.

Mrs. Eliane Knopp, long-time friend of Mrs. Chapin, said, “My husband Jacky and I had a deep friendship with Jane. We were both young couples with young children, new to Bangor and The Park School in the late 1940s. We’d become instant friends. I saw her at lunch with friends, visiting the Chapins in Maine each summer for many, many years. Jane was a lovely woman.” Park alumna and former faculty member Art Meyer ’42 shared his memories of Jane. “She was Park’s ‘first lady’ and, as such, was always a loving and gracious woman, especially to anyone needing help, whether they were faculty, students, staff, or parents. Her loyalty to Park and her family was remarkable,” he said.

“SHE WAS PARK’S ‘FIRST LADY’... A LOVING AND GRACIOUS WOMAN.”

Meyer remembers that he and his boss, Mr. Chapin, developed a love of sports cars in the late 1950s. Jane went along with good humor on their visits to Watkins Glen and other race tracks. “When Bart and I both bought MG sports cars and raced around Park’s campus on the weekends, that was when Jane gently expressed her disapproval and suggested it wasn’t the best idea. Perhaps she heard a complaint from Mary Cummings, then a fifth grade teacher whose house was on the Circle (where the Helen Long Building now stands)." We zipped around the Circle and sped up at that spot we called ‘Cummings Gulch.’ Jane thought we were acting like teenagers and encouraged us to take our hobby elsewhere.”

The Park School’s current head of school, Chris Lauricella, recalls, “A few lively telephone conversations with Mrs. Chapin, particularly when we were collecting stories for The Park School’s Buffalo Centennial History book. She was always witty and gracious. As I met alumnae around the country it also became obvious that Mrs. Chapin was as beloved as her husband, who is a legendary figure for all of us at Park.”

An obituary detailing Mrs. Chapin’s long life was published November 5, 2015, on The Portland Press Herald. You can find it online at obituaries.pressherald.com

For further information, or should you wish to contact Mrs. Chapin’s family, please contact Carolyn Hoyt Stevens, ’81, Director of Development, at 716-839-1243 x206 or oneven@theparkschool.org

Gloria A. Meyer ’50

WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT THE KNOPP FAMILY HAS DESIGNATED THE PARK SCHOOL AS A RECIPIENT FOR MEMORIAL GIFTS.

Gifts to Park in memory of Jacky Knopp will support The Knopp-Haipern Center, the School’s new science facility that is slated for groundbreaking in 2016.

WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT THE KNOPP FAMILY HAS DESIGNATED THE PARK SCHOOL AS A RECIPIENT FOR MEMORIAL GIFTS.
The Board of Visitors, October 2015

The Board of Visitors visited Park October 15 and 16 for a two-day session focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). The Visitors learned about Park’s STEAM initiatives and successes.

In addition to classroom visits, where Visitors are invited to witness learning across all divisions, group members also attended STEAM integration work sessions that included presentations on technology on campus.

“The level of teaching is just outstanding,” said Tim Finnell ‘58.

“This year’s Board of Visitors was one of the best yet,” said Head of School Chris Lauricella. “We have a lot of new ideas.”

“The level of teaching is just outstanding.” >> TIM FINNELL ‘58, OCTOBER 2015

NEW TO THE BOARD

TRINI ROSS has worked for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Western District of New York since 1992. She spent two years at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. She has served as an adjunct professor of law at SUNY at Buffalo, School of Law, Medaille College, Canisius College, Niagara University, and the State University at Buffalo (BA, Rutgers University IMS, and the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School JD cum laude). She is on the Board of Directors for several organizations, including the Women’s Bar Association (WBA) of Western New York, and is the parent of a Park graduate and a current Park student.

JASON L. BIRD is a Certified Financial Planner with Independent Wealth Management in Williamsville. He holds a degree in economics from the University at Buffalo which he completed while playing on the men’s basketball team. He has worked in the not-for- profit arena for 22 years and has completed a career, focusing on providing corporate financial education and comprehensive financial planning services to the employees of various local universities, hospitals, and parachol schools. Jason serves on the Board of Directors for the U.B. Alumni Association and is an assistant varsity boys’ basketball coach at Park. His son, Jacob, is a member of the Class of 2027.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Alison Nagni, Secretary
Suzanne Francis, Treasurer
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Trini Ross
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Jim Harlin, Faculty Representative
Matthew Johnson, Faculty Representative
Joe McMahan ’83, Alumni Association President
Rebecca Cook, PPA Co-President
Melissa Downey, PPA Co-President

The Board of Trustees

Why am I very excited to be the Board of Trustees President at The Park School of Buffalo? The real question is, and is sometimes a pretty simple. Both of our children, Chris ’03 and Andrea ’04, received an outstanding education at Park, and both have gone on to excellent colleges and potentially lifelong productive careers. My wife Sarah and I could not have asked for a better set of outcomes. Based on this, why wouldn’t I be all for becoming a member of the Board and ultimately sitting in the President’s chair?

The total education that Park provided, along with the well-rounded quality of the environment, far surpassed what we were looking for in a school.

Let me back up a bit to how we selected The Park School. After a multi-year assignment in Germany where I was managing a large portion of my then-employer’s European business, it was time to cycle back home to Western New York. Our experience at Westminster School, where education was based on the International Baccalaureate curriculum, clearly pointed out that the public school system in our hometown would be a true step backwards for both Chris and Andrea. Sarah and I decided that private school was the best option for their education. The question was where? I had another school in mind while Sarah had some good friends with connections to Park. After a day of shadowing shortly after Thanksgiving 1996, there was no question where they wanted to go. The decision was done, and we have never regretted a single day.

When I joined the Board a few years back, Park had been going through a transition. There was a new head of school, and the School seemed to be having difficulty recovering from the country’s economic collapse. The new head, Chris Lauricella, brought a sense of purpose and energy to that difficult era and it seemed a perfect time to see how I might help the school that had done so well by my family. Suffice to say, the turnaround of The Park School has been a source of great pride to those of us who serve on the Board. To a certain extent, it mirrors the resurgence of Buffalo and Western New York that we all see on a daily basis. The School is on good footing, and we have embarked on the executing Science@Park capital campaign to construct a new science building with a focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) that will lead us through the future decades.

As a Board, we are especially encouraged by the quality of the professional organization that Chris and Park have put in place. We are7 seeing teacher skill and growth, along with the administrative, staff, development team, and the leadership itself, we have a top-notch school and 34-era campus to shout about. We can only do our best as a Board to continue this positive momentum and be part of the good news that will keep coming out of The Park School. To help maintain the momentum, we are diligently working on updating the School’s strategic plan. The last plan set the stage for Park’s current resurgence, and the new plan will focus on taking it even further.

On a closing note, an enormous portion of the thanks and congratulations should go to the past Board members who have contributed so much of their time and effort with the best intentions for the School. Without all those dedicated Board members, it would not have been possible. One particular member for many years, and the outgoing Board President who needs a very special thank you, is Melissa Baumgart. The direction and tone that the Board follows clearly has come from her leadership, and I know we will continue on that path.

Martin J. Baradat
President, Board of Trustees

The School acknowledges the fine service and commitment of the following individuals who have recently completed their terms on the Board of Trustees.

Melissa Baumgart
Steve Zillig
Charles Hartney
Lynne Bayer
Tashi Sherpa ’14

FALL 2015 | 9
Madeleine Welchoff, Chris Lauricella, Robert Gregg

“disagreement with his theory,” said Fedirko. Also connects his work to some philosophers of mind who are presently in only supports Penrose’s theory of a quantum wave-dependent mind, but engineered to produce equivalent forms of consciousness. “Our work not science Roger Penrose’s Orchestrated-Or theory and how it might be focused on mathematical physicist, mathematician, and philosopher of Juniata College’s AI (Artificial Intelligence) in June. Their presentation at Quantum Mechanics: Philosophical Consequences that make a Park School education uniquely powerful and aligned with our historical strengths. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Emma Goldman ’16 and math department faculty member William Fedirko at the Juniata AI Conference

TWO RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORP.

Madeleine Welchoff and Robert Gregg, both Class of 2016, have been recognized for their exceptional academic promise by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. “Robert and Maddie are two of our many talented and hard-working students,” said head of school Chris Lauricella. “I am so pleased that their hard work has been recognized through this achievement.”

FUTURE-FOCUSED reflects our commitment to provide our students with the skills they need to productive, successful, and joyful adults in an ever-changing world.

PARK TO PARK – RESEARCH INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ROSWELL PARK

Park has partnered with Jack and Jill of America, Buffalo Chapter, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute to offer research internships this summer. Adam Kusulas, PhD, Assistant Dean of Internships and Educational Outreach at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, visited Park in October and addressed a crowd of more than 60, sharing details of the program and encouraging students to apply. Four upper school students offered a panel discussion about their experiences with summertime STEM scholarships.

QUANTUM MECHANICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Emma Goldman ’16 and math department faculty member William Fedirko presented Quantum Mechanics: Philosophical Consequences at Juniata College’s AI (Artificial Intelligence) in June. Their presentation focused on mathematical physicist, mathematician, and philosopher of science Roger Penrose’s Orchestrated-Or theory and how it might be engineered to produce equivalent forms of consciousness. “Our work not only supports Penrose’s theory of a quantum wave-dependent mind, but also connects his work to some philosophers of mind who are presently in disagreement with his theory,” said Fedirko.

GLOBAL reflects the diversity of our community and a commitment to developing a global mindset and cross-cultural competencies in our students.

PARK TO PARK STUDENT PANEL

Morgan Pelle ’16, BOCM – Outpatient Dialysis; Nigel Jacobs ’16, Tuskegee University – Engineering; Emma Goldman ’16, Roswell Park Cancer Institute – Juvenile Robotic Surgery; Chaherjali, and Mia Stevane ’16, BOCM – Immunodeficiency Clinic.

GREEN represents our unique ability to connect students to the natural world through thoughtful curriculum and the use of our 34-acre campus as a hands-on teaching tool.

URBAN FARMING LEAVES LASTING IMPRESSION

Alexis Smith, ’17 spent the summer working at MAP (Massachusetts Avenue Project), a local nonprofit urban farm that provides fresh food to low-income people in the community. “MAP taught me about food justice (the disparity between the wealthy and the poor and what food is available to them), and I had the opportunity to learn how to grow food and prepare it,” said Alexis. “MAP also taught me how to be a good leader. I got out of my comfort zone. As my first real job, I was happy to be learning important issues and helping people.”

RECENT GRADUATE SERVES ON DELEGATION TO UNITED NATIONS

Aidan Powell ’15 served an internship with the Dangerous Goods Trainers Association (DGTA), a non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, shortly after graduation. He attended the 47th session of the Sub-committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. He accompanied Jim Powell ’75, head of the delegation for the DGTA to the U.N., who also participated in the 46th session meeting in Geneva for two weeks last year. “It was exciting to travel with Aidan,” said Jim. “There are many experts and resources in our rather unique field of work, but we must have one thing in common—we’re all pretty old. We need a career path to bring young people into our field of work that bridges disciplines including government administration, statecraft, logistics, safety, and the environment as well as just plain old negotiation and diplomacy between interested parties. We felt that green Aidan’s love of things related to the legal world, the environment and social responsibility—he was the perfect candidate for this opportunity.”

A BUSY SUMMER

It was a busy summer for Nigel Jacobs ’16, as he attended an engineering program at Tuskegee University, was a teaching assistant in the math department at Buffalo Prep’s Middle School Prep program, served as an assistant counselor for Park’s Summer Scholars Day camp, and joined the Board of Trustees of the National Federation for Just Communities as a student representative. The weeklong MITE (Mentoring Into Technology and Engineering) program at Tuskegee introduces motivated minority students to the world of engineering was the highlight for Nigel. “Attending the MITE program was a great honor because it is one of the best engineering schools in the country and contributed so much to the African-American community,” he said. Students participated in lectures, labs, and hands-on engineering projects with Tuskegee faculty, students, and alumni. “After going to the program I think I might want to do something in engineering”
I would like to thank Head of School Chris Lauronella and The Park School for making a long lost dream come true. My father, William G. Staniland II, was very dedicated to the School and had a great investment in it because his three children attended Park. His spent many long hours of his own time to make Park a better place for the future. He made a huge difference in the lives of his children and the community that truly lives our core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and kindness. Several upper school students who participated in Dr. Margaret Diamond’s Basic Genome Analysis and Bioinformatics club last spring presented their research at the University at Buffalo’s 2nd Annual ITEST Student Capstone Event at UB’s Center for Tomorrow in June. “The students learned how to annotate a gene sequence using many of the tools commonly used in bioinformatics research,” said Dr. Diamond. “Depending on their findings, their research may be published in the scientific literature.” The project was conducted through the Western New York Genetics in Research Partnership.

The Park School in shape all year round.

T om Gruszka, Jose Vega, and Bob Keller – the team that keeps The Park School in shape all year round.

When making his gifts to the Annual Fund and Science@Park campaign, ALMERIN (BUZZ) O’HARA ’55 shared his recent letter to the editor of the Poughkeepsie (NY) Journal: Private school education more enriching than generic studies

No wonder there are a Majority of Hudson Valley students unprepared for college, September 1, 2015.

I meet these kids almost every day and they are almost totally unmotivated and bored with what public schools have to offer. My family moved and stationed from different high schools when I was younger.

I would never have gotten into engineering school had it not been for the last – a private day school in Buffalo. Everything before that had made it clear to me that school should be boring, tedious, and forced. At The Park School it became different.

I was taught to love to learn. They taught us not what to learn, but how to learn and how to set our own goals and fulfill them. Since then, life has been a constant and exciting learning experience. I was able to go on to a successful career, make major contributions to the manned space program, and later, to establish a successful management consulting firm.

Ask anyone on campus “Who works the hardest?” and you are likely to hear, “The maintenance guys.” Bob, Tom, and Jose are Park’s quintessential maintenance team. Like Superman flying in to save the day, or Batman arriving to dispel a bad guy, this threesome does it all.

Like some of their legendary predecessors, Herr Landef, Sammy Yakota, Don Gemerek, and Herb Balda, Park’s current trio of all-around good guys keep the grounds of 31 acres and 11 buildings running. Need to have furniture moved? Call Maintenance! There’s a “spill” in Helen Long? Call Maintenance! The roof is leaking in Chapin? Call Maintenance! There’s a blizzard (two in the winter of 2015) coming and two miles of sidewalks and three parking lots are impassable? Call Maintenance!

Bob Keller, whose formal title is “Director of Buildings,” came to Park in May 2008. He is the leader of the pack as well as simply one of the guys. He was joined by Tom Gruszka (Maintenance Engineer) in March 2009. Jose Vega (Grounds Chief) joined the crew in July 2011. “We work great as a team,” says Gruszka. “You definitely know when one of us isn’t here,” adds Keller.

Appreciation For Their Hard Work

Last year’s extraordinarily long and cold winter stretched the team especially thin as they worked feverishly around the clock to keep the buildings warm and the pathways and roads clear. Their dedication did not go unnoticed. Last spring, in keeping with Park’s core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and kindness, several upper school students suggested that Park hold a walk-a-thon as a community service project and donate the proceeds to the maintenance team. Enthusiastically embraced by all, the project was kept secret from Bob, Tom, and Jose, who were surprised and humbled when the students presented them with a check for nearly $3,000 during Campus Cleanup Day in May. The team has been using the windfall to replace and repair equipment.

On The Personal Side

Bob came to Park from Westminster Presbyterian Church. He is a graduate of Triangle Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, PA. Outside of Park, he keeps busy with volunteer work at his church. He has served extensively on humanitarian missions to Haiti and as a chaplain on numerous Immersion trips.

Tom holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and came to Park after nine years at American Axle. Prior to that, he was an auto mechanic for 24 years. His interests include woodworking, travel, and solving math teacher Mike Kozak’s Pi Day challenges.

Jose came to Park from Nichols School, where he was the ice rink custodian. A native of Southern California, Jose attended Santa Barbara Community College. He enjoys playing soccer and drumming.

Asked what they would like to see in Park’s future all three agreed that the School must take care of what it has even as it looks to the future. In addition, a garage for storing vehicles and winner snow clearing equipment is on the team’s wish list, along with a turf soccer field.

Many thanks to our Maintenance Team, Extraordinaire!
Please join us in welcoming these new faculty and staff!

New Faculty & Staff

MADELEINE FIERSTEIN, M.D./L.S. Spanish Teacher
Madeleine (Maddee) Fierstein came to Park in the fall of 2015. She is a member of the World Languages Department, serving as a Spanish teacher to both middle and upper school students. Previously, Maddee spent four years working on the United States-Mexico border for IDEA public schools where she taught both middle and high school before becoming Assistant Principal of Instruction. She also coached soccer and cross-country. In her role as Assistant Principal she was responsible for providing professional development for teachers, managing student data, and maintaining a positive school culture. During her time at IDEA she completed her Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership at Columbia University. Prior to moving to South Texas she completed a Fulbright Scholarship in Mexico and received her BA as Oberlin College. In her free time she likes rescuing dogs and listening to vinyl records with her husband. She is excited to be a new Buffalonian and finds herself championing “Let’s Go Buffalo!“ in her shop.

JESSICA GRAHAM
World History Teacher
Jessica Graham first joined the faculty as a substitute teacher for the Middle and Upper Schools during the 2014-15 school year, and now teaches World History for grade nine. Before coming to Park, Jessica taught middle school American History, World History, World Cultures, and Literature at two local private elementary schools, as well as at North Broward Preparatory School in Coconut Creek, FL. With more than eight years of teaching experience, in addition to two years as a special education teacher, Jessica has developed a capacity for creating sensitive, student-based learning experiences that promote character development and responsible connections to current news. She holds a BA in history and an MA in education, both from the University at Buffalo.

TATIANA NIXA
Event Coordinator
Tatiana joined the development office in July. Originally from New Hampshire, Tatiana’s passion for education began when she first attended a small independent school in kindergarten. This unique experience allowed her to thrive in a creative environment and led her down a path to become a fourth-year boarding student at Kimball Union Academy, an independent high school in Meriden, NH. Tatiana attended St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY, and received a degree in Anthropology in 2012. After graduating, Tatiana worked at the Capitol Center for the Arts. Now Hampshire’s largest nonprofit performing arts center and a longtime performer moving to the Buffalo area in 2013 to continue her career in development. Tatiana worked at Explore & More Children’s Museum in East Aurora, NY, where she planned successful fundraisers and events for two years. In her free time, you can see Tat on the stage where she enjoys dancing in local community musicals.

MARCUS HUTCHINS
Director of Athletics
Marcus Hutchins joined The Park School as the Director of Athletics in September. Prior to coming to Park, he worked for 16 years at the University at Buffalo in the Department of Recreation and Intramural Services. While serving in several capacities throughout his time at the University, his most recent position was Senior Associate Director for Facilities and Business Operations. Marcus is a native of Monticello, NY. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences Interdisciplinary/Legal Studies as a Master of Arts in Applied Public Affairs and Urban Studies as well as an Advanced Certificate from the Graduate School of Education in Teaching and Leading for Diversity. All of these degrees were earned at the University at Buffalo.

Marcus was a Division I wrestler at the University at Buffalo where he earned many accolades that ultimately granted him admission to the University at Buffalo Division of Athletics Hall of Fame. In addition to serving as Park’s Director of Athletics, he is also the founder of The Unit Promise, a non-profit organization that focuses on Youth Engagement and Development. Marcus serves on the Board of Directors for Lou Gehrig Baseball in Amherst, NY, a non-profit organization providing baseball and softball instruction and opportunities.

Making Marks: Community Art Project

Scan this QR code with a smartphone or tablet or visit www.theparkschool.org to view Making Marks, a community art project with fine artist and Park parent Fotini Galanes.

Smart Phone
Scan the QR code above to see the 2015 edition of Park’s literary magazine, Agile Read (right).

The Arts at Park
Park Sends Two to ECMEA Choral Festival
Festival showcases top middle school talent from across Western New York.
Calvin Bocci ‘21 and Jessica Zarragosta ‘22 have become the first Park School students to participate in the Erie County Music Educators Association All-County Elementary (ECMEA) Chorus Festival. The two were among top area 5th and 6th graders who sang at Kleinhans Music Hall in the “Red Chorus” led by conductor Julie Furlong. “This was the first time that The Park School of Buffalo has sent choral graders who sang at Kleinhans Music Hall in the “Red Chorus” led by conductor JoAnn Falletta. Julie Furlong. “This was the first time that The Park School of Buffalo has sent choral graders who sang at Kleinhans Music Hall in the “Red Chorus” led by conductor JoAnn Falletta.

Bravo! The Park School Orchestra Brings Kleinhans Crowd to Its Feet
It was standing room only at the March 21, 2015, Community Spotlight Series concert featuring The Park School Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall. Highlights of the concert included Bruckner (Symphony No. 8), Beethoven (Eroica), and a rousing finale of Pachelbel, The Turkish March (Bach), and a rousing finale of Dona Nobis Pacem (Dona Nobis Pacem). Students and parents were thrilled to see the Park School Orchestra perform live at the concert. The orchestra includes not only students from lower school through upper school, but also parents, faculty, staff, and the School.

The Arts at Park
BPO Music Director JoAnn Falletta was presented with a poster signed by all members of the Park School Orchestra. “You have a great orchestra,” she said. “The students play with fire in their eyes and a smile on their faces,” adding that Park maestro Max Zelikman is doing incredible things, and she is proud to call him her friend. This was The Park School Orchestra’s 11th year performing in the Series and it will perform again in May 2016.

Steve O’Connell
President & CEO
in residence at The Park School of Buffalo
2015-2016 SCHEDULE
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 20, 2015
UH OH! HERE COMES CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 17, 2016
ORDINARY DAYS
APRIL 3 - APRIL 24, 2016
WOMEN ON FIRE
MAY 19 - JUNE 16, 2016
COMPANY
JUNE 1, 2016
TAKE A SEAT!
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30 PM — ALL SEASON LONG / THE LONGEST RUNNING SHOW IN WNY / HISTORY DIVA BY DIVA: A Celebration of Women
716-848-0800 • OConnellandCompany.com
Gloria Battaglia
PARK’S VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL COACH

Park had a phenomenal 2014 boys varsity basketball season, culminating in winning the Class B New York State Federation Championship. For readers who don’t follow high school basketball, this means that the Park team was the best team in New York State in its class.

For the last five years, Park’s boys varsity basketball team has been coached by Dr. Michael Battaglia, a self-described “basketball nut” and a full-time neurologist for the past 25 years at Buffalo Medical Group. We sat down with Mike and asked him to reflect on last season and make some predictions for this year.

NOW THAT SOME TIME HAS GONE BY, HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT WINNING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP? Looking back, I realize what an incredible feat it was to win the State Championship. I’m extremely satisfied and proud of my players and the School.

WHAT WAS THE SECRET TO LAST SPRING’S SUCCESS? I don’t think that any of the clichés like “we worked hard” or “we were bonded” fit with this team. Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good, but I know that’s not entirely true. I think we had good players, and that they played hard.

WHAT MAKES YOU SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THE GAME? To keep it simple, it’s a fun game. You have a lot of excitement and great moments. I think that’s what keeps me interested and focused.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUNGER PLAYERS who might be playing basketball? I think it’s important to learn about basketball. I think there are all sorts of different philosophies how to play the game. I have a lot of very good friends who feel the same way about basketball and that keeps me interested and fascinated.

WHO INSPIRES YOU? More than anything else my inspiration comes from the guys I grew up playing basketball with – friends who still enjoy and love the game as much as I do.

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One of the things that sets a Park School education apart is its Immersion Program. The Immersion program is a graded academic program designed to completely immerse students in a world outside their own, involving them in opportunities to learn and explore through firsthand experience. Immersion addresses these principles of The Park School:

- To learn how to learn, and enjoy learning
- To engage creatively in learning
- To practice freedom with responsibility
- To transform challenge into opportunity, and perhaps most specifically,
- To be curious, to explore, and to discover

Every other year, students in grades 5-12 spend the academic year in in-depth study of a topic of interest that culminates in a trip or experience in the spring that caps the year-long study.

In 2015, students traveled to France, Bali, the Galapagos Islands, and China. Domestically, students hiked the Appalachian Trail in Virginia, explored life along the Mississippi, learned about innovative creations and inventions in Florida, and studied theatre in New York City. Locally, students learned about Buffalo architecture, delved deeply into robotics, educated themselves about Museology (the study of museums), explored the history and growth of Buffalo’s waterfront, and enjoyed an in-depth STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) experience.

Sports Roundup

LOWER SCHOOL SOCCER
Both lower school soccer teams finished strong last spring, with the Mites (7-0, grades 1 and 2) going undefeated and the Pee Wees (8-2, grades 3 and 4) taking second place in the Diminuco Cup tournament.

CROSS-COUNTRY
Fourteen upper schoolers came together to create a cross-country club for the spring season. The season lasted nine weeks and included five, 5K (3.1 mi) road races and one 4-mile road race.

GIRLS 5/6 BASKETBALL TEAM
Congratulations to the girls 5/6 basketball team. The girls finished the season with a 7-4 record and took second place in the Diocesan Holy Hoopsters League.

2015 VARSITY SOCCER HONORS
GIRLS
Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association Honors
Kelly Rodgers
Gaby Baumgart

BOYS
Independent Athletic Conference Honors
Nwanki (Tony) Ugboma – 1st Team All Conference
Stefano Occhiuto – 1st Team All Conference
William Derrick – 1st Team All Conference
Sam Koplas – Honorable Mention
Greg Connors – Honorable Mention
Noah Hutchins – Honorable Mention

ALUMNI SOCCER GAME
Alumni and friends: Peter Schulte ’11, John Beringer, Zach Linde ’14, Todd Levin ’96, Steve George ’97, Doug Goldstein ’77, Chris Lauricella, Joe Vega, Kevin Wenske, Kevin Wotton, Tipp Higgins ’90, Kelly Giacobbe, Isaac Ponti ’11, Evan Sakowski ’08, Seated: Kody Sprague ’03, Abby Sakowski ’08

Immersion 2015

One of the things that sets a Park School education apart is its Immersion Program. The Immersion program is a graded academic program designed to completely immerse students in a world outside their own, involving them in opportunities to learn and explore through firsthand experience. Immersion addresses these principles of The Park School:

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Immersion trips included (clockwise from top right): Bali, Indonesia; Disney World STEM; the Buffalo waterfront; the Appalachian Trail; Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands; and the South of France.
On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, and trustees, thank you for your incredible support during the 2014-15 year! Your generosity provides the financial resources needed to attract and retain a high-quality and loyal faculty; provides tuition assistance to talented students who ensure our community represents the world in which we live; and adds and expands upon important academic and community programs that make Park an outstanding school.

As we look ahead to the completion of the Science@Park Campaign and construction of the new Knopp-Hallpern Center, I am proud of our school and excited about Park’s place in the Western New York educational community.

One of the highlights of the year is the unrestricted Annual Fund campaign that raised more than $320,000—a new Park record! Park’s fundraising events continue to provide a significant source of income for the School, along with opportunities for fun and camaraderie among our community at the annual auction and golf outing.

Park would not exist without philanthropic support—from those who came before us and from all of you today who are creating a strong future for the School and our truly amazing community of faculty and students.

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE,

CAROLYN HOYT STEVENS ’81
Director of Development

On behalf of the Advancement Committee and colleagues on the Development Team

Look for a full report of donors to Science@Park upon completion of this capital campaign.

2014-15 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

HIGHLIGHTS

$320,868 raised for unrestricted Annual Fund—a new Park record!

INCOME 2014-2015

- Net Tuition & Fees $2,419,160
- Gifts & Fundraising Events $709,649
- Summer Programs $362,887
- Other Income $99,897
- Foundation Distribution $70,000
- Ancillary Programs $51,133

TOTAL INCOME $4,710,796

Funding does not include gifts made to the Park School Foundation or Capital Campaign.

PARTICIPATION

100% Trustees and Faculty/Staff

77% Current Parents

WHO GAVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND?

954 DONORS

Trustees (100%)

Faculty & Staff (100%)

Current Parents (77%)

Alumni (19%)

Parents of Alumni (14%)

Friends

GIFTS OF $100,000 & ABOVE: 9

2014-15 GIVING SUMMARY

Unrestricted Annual Fund $320,868

Restricted Annual Funds $222,965

Audition 2015—Passport to Park $164,816

Centennial Capital Campaign $1,035,526

Gifts to Park School Foundation $124,455

Endowment Distribution $70,000

TOTAL $1,938,630

EXPENSES 2014-2015

- Salaries & Benefits $3,612,767
- Administration $331,153
- Campus & Facilities $301,909
- Instructional & Student Programs $279,093
- Other $120,086

TOTAL EXPENSES $4,644,986

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE,

CAROLYN HOYT STEVENS’81
Director of Development

On behalf of the Advancement Committee and colleagues on the Development Team

Look for a full report of donors to Science@Park upon completion of this capital campaign.
So many alumni, parents, past parents, and other friends of the School have supported our largest capital campaign, Science@Park. Thank you all! As we near our fundraising goal of $4 million and finalize plans for the new science building, we want to encourage everyone connected to Park to support this campaign that is vital to our future.

The Science@Park Capital Campaign is funding significant technology improvements, many of which have already been implemented, and the construction of a new science building. The Knopp-Hailpern Center. Named for beloved faculty members, Dr. Jacky Knopp and Dr. Raoul Hailpern, the building will have state-of-the-art classrooms and labs as well as an interactive space, the “Center for Campus Inquiry,” that will house our natural collections. The “Center for Campus Inquiry” will allow Park to expand on its pilot program of partnering with urban schools so that their students may learn about the natural sciences in authentic natural settings.

An October 2014 pond study indicated that the pond is on the verge of becoming an unhealthy ecosystem. To ensure the pond’s future, the Science@Park campaign goal has been raised to $4 million so that restoration may take place to limit unwanted nutrient input into the pond, stabilize the water chemistry, and promote ecosystem diversity. Doing so will reestablish the pond as an amenity and teaching tool and will improve the water quality and ensure that the pond continues to be a teaching tool for this and future generations.

At the time of this printing, we are more than 87% to our goal. However, $500,000 will need to be raised in order to complete the fundraising campaign and break ground on the new building. Please make your gift or pledge today to help make the exciting new building and pond rehabilitation a reality!

**UPDATE**

**KNOPP-HAILPERN CENTER**

**REHABILITATING THE POND**

**WHY ARE WE ASKING YOU TO SUPPORT BOTH CAMPAIGNS?**

Like every independent school, The **ANNUAL FUND** is vital to the everyday operations of The Park School and provides funding for tuition assistance, faculty salaries, campus maintenance, and more. This year’s goal is $320,000.

**SCIENCE@PARK** is the future of the School. More than $3.5 million has already been raised toward our $4 million goal. We need just $500,000 more to break ground on The Knopp-Hailpern Center!

**HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP – WRITE YOUR CHECKS OR MAKE YOUR PLEDGES TODAY!**

**ANNUAL FUND**

$320,000 NEEDED

Pledge payable during the 2015-16 school year.

**SCIENCE@PARK**

$500,000 NEEDED

Thank you!

**WHY SUNFLOWERS?**

Students, faculty, and friends planted sunflowers in June 2015 to mark the location of The Knopp-Hailpern Center. In September, we mailed a packet of sunflowers like the one above to the entire Park community. Why sunflowers? Not only are they beautiful, but their seed pattern also illustrates the mathematical phenomenon known as the Fibonacci Sequence, a recent topic in Park math classes. This spring, you will receive a reminder to plant your sunflower seeds with the hope that you will also “Plant Park’s Future” by generously supporting our Dual Appeal!
Alumni who have graduated within the last 15 years are invited to join the YOUNG ALUMNI LEADERSHIP CIRCLE and experience through June 30, 2015. We are exceedingly grateful for this support.

The lists below recognize the generous donors who contributed to the School during the 2014-15 fiscal year, July 1 – June 30. We are extremely grateful for the support of the donors listed. The following contributions are for their significant gifts in support of Park’s mission and vision. The following donors gave $1,000 or more in restricted and unrestricted gifts ($500 or more for members of the Young Alumni Leadership Circle) during the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. We are exceedingly grateful for this support.

2014-15 DONORS – TRUSTEES, FACULTY, AND STAFF

The faculty and staff at Park give so much every day to our students and campus. Their gifts are a special way for this group to show their belief in Park’s mission and ideals. For the Park School, we continued our 100% participation.

2014-15 DONORS – ALUMNI

Mary Hammett Lewis Circle of Leadership Donors

This year, we are especially grateful for the support of Mrs. David G. Brock ‘63, David T. Colton, Dale C. English, Richard Robbene, and Deirdre Layton Seckes. Nancy Townsend Wyman, Barbara Hurwitz Davis, David Bunis, Barbara Brizdle, and Barbara M. Alpern are greatly appreciated.

The Board of Trustees, including significant philanthropic donations as well as gifts of time and talent and other significant contributions help to strengthen Park now and for the future. The Park School gratefully acknowledges the many contributions made by the Board of Trustees, including significant philanthropic donations as well as gifts of time and talent and other significant contributions help to strengthen Park now and for the future.

MALCOLM R. SIGENIS, Chair

Gail Haddaway Bramer

Barbara Brizdle

Michael Stroman

Jan H. Suwinski

Michael Blaydon

Frankie Smith

Linda Buerk Matt

Karen Miller

John Robin Allen

Brenda Colby Walling

Marcia J. Sato

Richard Robbene

Mary Scheu Teach

Marcia E. Spero

Barbara Aronovitch

Mary H. Lewis

Nancy Townsend Wyman

Anonymous

John Robin Allen

Brenda Colby Walling

Marcia J. Sato

Richard Robbene

Mary Scheu Teach

Marcia E. Spero

Barbara Aronovitch

Mary H. Lewis

Nancy Townsend Wyman

Mary Hammett, founding headmistress of The Park School.
AUCTION 2015
PARK PASSPORT TO A GLOBAL JOURNEY
PASSPORT TO PARK: A GLOBAL JOURNEY

Passport to Park: A Global Journey was one of the most successful auctions in the history of the School.

"Passport to Park was another triumph for our staff and volunteers," said Head of School Chris Lusardi. "It was particularly important to raise funds for the refurbished Clement Gym with about $10 worth of materials—a real map of paper and fishing line—to become an elegant squadron of paper airplanes flying the skies above the silent auction items. As the result of your efforts on behalf of all of us at Park, I believe that this year’s Auction 2015 volunteers for their leadership and the support of our community exceeded our fundraising goals and the limits of our imaginations. 

More than 270 people attended the event, which included both silent and live auctions. Attendance was extremely high during the live auction as teacher/senior advisor Chris Downey led the lively bidding on artwork created by each grade in the Lower School and art faculty members Kyle Polske and Dave O’Malley. WGRZ meteorologist Kevin Elliott led the live auction and worked to draw in all the bids. Co-chairs by Trevor and Wende Mollenberg ’79 and John and Amy Hoskins, the event was a grand night out for a truly great cause.

THANKS TO OUR AUCTION 2015 SPONSORS!

Randy Oak, LLC
Rappold Family Dentistry, PC
Seckler & Associates, Inc.
Schulte Buffalo
Shildon Precision
Social Security
Sprague Development
Todd Construction Corporation
Wells Fargo Advisors
WNY Urology Associates

A squad of paper airplanes soared over the silent auction in Clement Gym during the highly successful Auction 2015 - Passport to Park, A Global Journey.
We are proud of our long partnership with the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, which has been a beneficiary of Country Fair proceeds since the first year. Thank you to all the friendly donors who designate their gifts to Park through the United Way.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Gregory Connors III
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Costantine Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ford
Mr. and Mrs. D. Gregory Connors III
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Costantine Jr.
Park School would need $6.4 million in new endowment dollars (at a 5% distribution rate) to provide the purchasing power of a $320,000 Annual Fund.
Class of 1925
Jane Balcom Perry (d.)

Class of 1927
James G. Dyest (d.)
Mary Louise Olmsted (d.)

Class of 1931
Barbara Sicherman

Class of 1936
Judith A. Schulhoff (d.)

Class of 1937
Jane Plimpton Plakias (d.)

Class of 1938
Norman Clement (d.)
Loopy S. Wolfe, Jr. (d.)

Class of 1940
Donald R. Hinkley (d.)

Class of 1941
Grace Rammacher de la Plante Brady
Mary Schu Teach

Class of 1942
Frederick Sanford Hubbard (d.)

Class of 1943
Sylvia Lyman Whitcher

Class of 1944
Margaret Taylor Phelps
Esther Potter Thomas (d.)

Class of 1945
Lois Farquharson Hayes
Joy Grady Simpkins
Alice Wadsworth Strong (d.)

Class of 1946
Eugene M. Satel

Class of 1947
Teddy Taylor Dann
Harold E. Twedeen

Class of 1948
John P. MacKenzie

Class of 1949
Gordon R. Gross
John H. McDowell (d.)
Marguerite Morey Zabriskie

Class of 1950
Barbara Knuff Nicholas

Class of 1951
Barbara Scherner

Class of 1953
David N. Burns
Amanda Fisk Hobart
Gail W. Stump (d.)

Class of 1954
Joanna Briztle Leipling (d.)
Velma F. Rice (d.)

Class of 1955
H. Austin Hoyt
Robert J. Wilson

Class of 1958
Bruce T. Bothinger (d.)
Gail Hadickwamer Bramer
Timothy J. Fennell
Guy W. Gunzburg
Susan Wemer Kates
Patricia Burns Richardson

Class of 1959
Charles C. Cheney
Leila Fisher Curtiss
Susan Bernhill Hill
Donald C. & Heather Roberts

Class of 1961
Barbara Briztle
Ann E. Campbell
Margaret Walls Hamilton
Hilary Piper Harty
Scott Moso
Elizabeth Walker Schroeder (d.)

Class of 1962
Chip Johnston

Class of 1963
David G. Brock

Class of 1965
W. Lawrence Buck
Suzanne R. Risch

Class of 1966
Patricia Cohon Gelman
Gayle K. Pauly
Susan Wessingerger
Ann L. Wiley

Class of 1967
Edward Michaels II

Class of 1982
Donald L. Katz

Class of 1987
P. Dale Wettlauer

Class of 1993
Amos W. Marvel

FRIENDS
David K. Anderson (d.)
Bruce T. & Patricia Barber
Malissa G. Baumgart
P. Jeffrey Britch
Mrs. Leonard Briztle (d.)
Kate Brown & Michael Halbert
Nan & Will Clarkson
D. Gregory & Alison Connors
Omar L. & Susanne DeWitt
Helga Doblin (d.)
Mrs. John G. (Mary) Kamer Jacky (d.) & Elaine Knopp
Holly W. Levy
Mrs. John H. McDowell (d.)
Dr. Winifred H. Morrison (d.)
Cheryl M. Rosenberg
Marian K. Shickler (d.)
A. Warren (d.) & Gretchen Smith (d.)
Carole & Evan Taylor (d.)
Eleanor Treiber (d.)
Steven R. & Barbara Zillig

(d.) indicates that the individual is deceased

Jane was second from the right in the first row in this field hockey photo from 1936. Her sister Betty is to her left.
2015 College Acceptances and Class Day Awards

Park School students are well prepared for the rigors of the college experience. Our graduates matriculate to colleges and universities that are among the most selective in the country. Following is a list of members of the Class of 2015 and the colleges or universities to which they were accepted. The college the student chose to attend is in bold. Class Day Awards are italicized.

- **Lauren Gould**
  University at Buffalo
  Spanish Language Award
  Parke Recognition

- **Dorian Griffin**
  Erie Community College
  New York Institute of Technology
  Ohio University
  SUNY College at Buffalo
  SUNY College at Fredonia
  University of Hartford
  University of New Haven

- **Nico Neglia**
  American University
  Model UN
  Ohio University
  SUNY College at Buffalo
  University at Buffalo
  SUNY College at Fredonia
  Ohio University
  Pennsylvania State University
  Pennsylvania State University – University Park
  Princeton University
  Rice University
  Rice University
  SUNY College at Fredonia
  University at Buffalo

- **Marina Holzhauser**
  Carnegie College
  University of Findlay
  Transylvania University
  University of Kentucky

- **Cary Killeen**
  Elon University
  Fuddham University
  University at Buffalo
  University of Puget Sound
  Wheaton College
  Senior Thesis Recognition for Honorable Mention

- **Kalia McCray**
  Ohio University
  University at Buffalo
  University of Pennsylvania
  University of Rochester
  University of Virginia
  Virginia Tech
  William Paterson University
  Williams College

- **Liana Ellegate**
  American University
  The Park School Alumni Engagement Award
  Model UN
  Smith College Book Award

Pioneer Award

**Melissa J. Bauernfeind** is recognized for her dedicated service to the School.

Following are remarks by Head of School Chris Lauricella as he presented her with the 2015 Pioneer Award.

"It has been customary, from time to time… a custom instituted in 1969 by then-Chaplain F. Bronze Chapin Jr. to present what is called the Pioneer Award to outstanding members of the Park School community who have done a great deal for the School. This year I am both incredibly happy and sad about giving this award. I am happy because I can think of many more deserving of the honor and sad because honoring this award signals the end of an era, and the fact that I won’t get to see her in person further prompts my sadness. This should tip all of us off to the fact that the 2015 Pioneer Award is going to Mrs. Melissa Bauernfeind, the president of our board of trustees and none other than, Class of 2010, Clay 2012, and Gabby 2016.

Macy is not new for live of public praise and attention and I am going to honor this by keeping my remarks brief. She has been involved in our community since 2000 and, rather than rattling off the rather long and impressive list of ways that she has helped the School grow, I hope you will simply trust me when I say that all of us here today have, in some way or another, benefited significantly from Mrs. Bauernfeind’s commitment to Park.

She is seemingly always here with us — sometimes on an almost daily basis — faithfully attending and leading numerous committee meetings. She does all this despite having a very busy life leading a highly successful company and serving on many high profile nonprofit boards across Western New York, including Roswell Park, the Zoo, and the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

And yet I know, because she has told me so many times, that Park is one of her highest priorities because of what the School has done for her kids. While I’m sure she has had a major influence in their lives, I am equally sure that Macy, Clay, and Gabby are darn lucky to have you and Allan as parents. Nonetheless, it is always wonderful to hear you say how much you love this place.

Macy, I am sure you have never, in all the years I have known you, told your kids how much you love them.

Macy, we share a profound sense of humor, so perhaps the highest compliment that I can pay you is to tell you, without a hint of irony, that we love you, too.”

**Erika Barnes**
Cambridge College
Medaille College
Niagara University
Pennsylvania State University
St. Bonaventure University
University at Buffalo

**Derek Cheatom**
Saint Michael’s College

**Jiaqi Chen**
SUNY College at Buffalo
University of Buffalo

**Aleik Cheng-Uribe**
Columbia College Chicago
Pennsylvania State University
University of Nevada Las Vegas

**Caroline Connors**
Skidmore College
Section V Scholar Athlete
Parke Recognition

**Trevor Cornish**
Bucknell University
Carroll College
Clarkson University
Daemen College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
St. Lawrence University
SUNY College of Environmental Science
and Forestry
Union College
University at Buffalo Honors College
University of Rochester
The Park School Alumni Senior Award
Independent Health and Business First Community ALL-STAR Scholarship for Academic Excellence
Erie-Niagara School Superintendents’ Association Academic Achievement Award

**Lauren Powell**
Carleton College
Clark University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Ithaca College
SUNY College of Environmental Science
and Forestry
University at Buffalo
University at Rochester
Student Government Award

**Shengde (Ray) Gian**
University of Iowa
International Student Award

**Tashi Sherpa**
Colgate University
Rochester Institute of Technology
SUNY at Geneseo
Union College
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Rochester
State of New York Office of the State Comptroller Award

**Kendall Smith**
Bucknell University
Carroll College
Colgate University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Lawrence University
SUNY at Geneseo
Union College
Jane Pimpinelli ‘37 History Award
Scholarship for Academic Excellence
Erie-Niagara School Superintendents’ Association Academic Achievement Award

**Oliver Killeen**
American University
Brandeis University
Elon University
Occidental College
Wheaton College

**Kyla Threats**
Cheyney University
Clark Atlanta University
Delaware State University
Hampton University
La Moyne College
Le Moyne College
Medaille College
Smith College

**Pulin (Susan) Yu**
Pennsylvania State University – University Park
University of Massachusetts – Amherst
Institute of Musical Art Award

**Jiaqi Chen**
University at Buffalo
University of Rochester
University of Virginia
Virginia Tech
William Paterson University
Williams College

**Liana Ellegate**
American University
The Park School Alumni Engagement Award
Model UN
Smith College Book Award

**Randy Golda**
Albany University
Carnegie Mellon University
Ohio University
Rochester Institute of Technology

**Erik Ratigan**
Fordham University

**Erik Ratigan**
Fordham University

**Erik Ratigan**
Fordham University

2015 Commencement

The Park School Class of 2015 graduated Friday morning, June 12, 2015. Thirty one students received diplomas at Park’s 90th Commencement. Commencement speakers Sandy Geffner and Scott Lombits, naturalists with Earth Spirit Educational Services, mesmerized the crowd with stories of outdoor adventures and advice delivered regarding the seniors’ futures. Park has had a long association with Earth Spirit Educational Services and the seniors, many of whom have known the naturalists for ten years or more, unanimously choose “Mr. Sandy” and “Mr. Scott.” The caveat was that they had to bring props—animals, bikes, shovels... The naturalists delivered. Much to everyone’s surprise and delight, Allison the alligator made an appearance, along with Reggie the gecko.

Caroline Connors delivered a memorable address on behalf of the senior class, marking the occasion with a fire-side Powerpoint presentation that recapitulated the class Park School experience.

“Commencement 2015 served as a wonderful metaphor for The Park School as a whole,” said Head of School Chris Lauricella. “Perhaps what I liked best about this commencement is that it felt like an hour-long adventure, rather than a mild and predictable tradition. I also appreciated how deeply the design of the day was influenced by our students.”

The members of the Class of 2015 were accepted to 72 colleges and universities. We wish them well.

2015 Commencement
From the Park Alumni Association President

JOE McMAHON ’83

I am happy to report that we have had another successful year of increasing alumni engagement with the School. This event schedule has been full and it has been nice to see so many old and new friends returning for school events. We are also very appreciative of the generosity of the alumni as we have seen continued growth in alumni giving. Thank you all very much for your support of Park.

The Golf Tournament in August was a great success with records being set for both attendance and funds raised. We will be moving to a new location next year – Arrowhead Golf Club. So save the date of August 15, 2016, for this really great event. It was also nice to see so many alumni at Country Fair and the Alumni Soccer Game in October!

If you haven’t taken the time to return for an alumni event I encourage you to do so. We have a number of great ones coming up and would love to have you come and re-connect with us. Thanksgiving Assembly is always a great tradition at Park, and it is great to see the holiday season will be upon us which means the Alumni Basketball Game on December 22 that will be followed by a boys varsity basketball game. Last year we enjoyed watching the boys beat St. Joe’s for the first time ever after the alumni game. The alumni game was great fun, but supporting the current students was even more exciting. The Alumni Holiday Party at Just Vino in Buffalo will follow on December 26.

We are looking forward to Mad About Science Auction 2016 on March 5, 2016. The Board of Visitors will convene May 19 and 20. These are great ways to learn about what is going on in the School now. Within a few hours I guarantee that you will be impressed by our current student body and faculty, and proud of how the School carries on the traditions upon which it was founded. Of course, Reunion is June 17 and 18 when we will celebrate the class years ending in 1 and 6.

If none of these events fit your schedule perhaps you will be able to join us for the groundbreaking event for the new Science Building on the campus – details to follow. This is an exciting time to be a part of the community at Park, and I hope you choose to visit us soon.

WHERE ARE THEY?

Do you know the whereabouts of any of our “lost” alumni? The alumni listed below are members of classes celebrating reunions this year, and we want to invite them.

If you know how we can reach someone on this list, please contact the Development Office, 716-839-1243 x130 or email alumni@theparkschool.org. Thank you for helping us keep track of all Park school alumni connected!

Alumni can update their contact information by visiting www.theparkschool.org and clicking on Alumni.

THERE’S STILL TIME TO DONATE TO THE AWARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

More than 100 alumni, friends and families have contributed to the Park School Scholarship Fund. If you haven’t taken the time to return for an alumni event I encourage you to do so. We have a number of great ones coming up and would love to have you come and re-connect with us. Thank you for your support of Park.

A HUGE SUCCESS!

The third annual golf outing was a huge success, netting nearly $10,000 that will go toward rehabilitating the Wycoff tennis courts.

Held at Seneca Hickory Stick in Lewiston, NY, 70 golfers came out for a fun-filled day on the links. The Marty Berardi / Chris Berardi ’93 /Kody Spaigue ’03 / Evan Smith ’05 foursome took top honors with a 78. Other contest winners included Joe Palumbo (Closest to the Pin), Chris Berardi and Trudy Mollenberg (Longest Drive), Evan Smith (Putting Contest), and Tom Labrador (Hole-In-One and 50/50 winner).

Many thanks to our Hospitality Sponsors: Channel-Buffalo and Sheldon Precision; Putting Contest Sponsor – United Insurance; Raffle/Auction Sponsor & Tie, Tie – Murry Roofing, and Beverage Cart Sponsors – Kate Brown & Michael Haltmanen and Carol Haegens & Fung Eng. Thanks, also, to Tie Sponsors: AAA of Central and Western NY, Allied Mechanical, Audubon Machinery, Buffalo Office Interiors, Ellicott Small Animal Hospital, Federspiel, Pfeifer & Kubicki, CPA, Flynn & Friends. Leadership Niagara, Modem Electric, M-Power Sales, O’Connell & Company, Realty USA – Bill Heussler ’78, Sarah G. Camery, LLC, Spaigue Development Corp., and Taylor Group.

We look forward to next summer’s golf outing at Arrowhead Golf Club in Akron on August 15, 2016.
Two Inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

Trevor Cornish ’15 received the 2015 Alumni Senior Award. He came to Park as an eighth grade and left his mark on the School with his many Green Team initiatives including discontinuing the use of paper products in the dining hall and initiating a campus-wide paper reduction initiative. The School now incorporates double-sided printing, recycling, and educating the community on ways to reduce paper consumption. Trevor participated on the Green Team and the Environmental Stewardship Club for all four years of Upper School and was the recipient of the Environmental Stewardship award for three years in a row.

“Not only is Trevor one of the most dependable students I’ve ever worked with, he also demonstrated more growth over his five years at Park than many others I’ve taught,” said Head of Upper School Jeremy Besch. “He truly becomes a confident, principled, thoughtful young man, and is ready to do great things for himself and the world. Most important, he has built a trust in his own great talents that will serve him well – this is a goal we have for all of our students, and it is wonderfully representative of Trevor’s time at Park.”

Trevor is pursuing environmental engineering at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

“So much of Trevor’s academic persona is evident in his transcript and other concrete affirmations of him as a student,” said Director of College Counseling Karen Miller. “What you can’t visualize from the data is the quality and depth of Trevor’s knowledge and, most importantly, his quest for knowledge for its own sake. He reads prodigiously, advocates for his peers, and truly puts his whole self into the work he does at school and beyond our walls. He is an unpretentious scholar. He is a cohesive unit in the big picture of Park.”

The Alumni Senior Award recognizes the graduating senior who has contributed the most to the School. Selection is by vote of the teachers, the senior class, and the alumni board. The award is presented at Reunion every June.

Joy Grady Simpkins ’45 and Jill Robinson Harper ’65 were inducted into The Park School Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Simpkins was unable to attend and her award was accepted by her daughter, Molly Simpkins Long. Wendy Caldwell Maloney ’75 introduced Molly.

“Mom’s athletic achievements started with field hockey where she was on the team from the 10th grade through senior year, when she became Team Captain,” said Long. “She was also on the basketball team in the 11th and 12th grades. In her post-Park years, Mom returned to team up with Taddy Taylor Dams ’47, and together they developed quite the athletic program for young women at Park coaching the field hockey, basketball, and softball teams.

“Surely this Sports Hall of Fame honor has been bestowed on many outstanding Park athletes with remarkable records of Olympian feats,” continued Long. “But you would be hard pressed to find a more outstanding example of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and skilled exertion than our mother.”

Simpkins was also the recipient of the Park Alumni Service Award in 1989. "JILL APPROACHED SPORTS... WITH GRACE AND TENACITY!"

Joe McMahon ’93, inductee Jill Robinson Harper ’65, Chris Lauricella, and Dee Dee Danahy Booth ’65

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“Jill approached sports like she did everything in her relationship with Park: with grace and tenacity!” said Dee Dee Danahy Booth ’65 in introducing her friend and teammate. “Her discipline both on and off the field was focused and respectful. A leader by example, Jill always made team play a priority by giving her teammates the opportunity to shine. She demonstrated true grace in both her athletic style and in her life.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME
Tuesday, December 22, 2015, 5:30 PM
The Rich Family Activity Center

ALUMNI HOLIDAY PARTY
Saturday, December 26, 2015
Just Vino, 846 Main St., Buffalo, 6-8 PM

PARK SCHOOL ORCHESTRA AT KLEINHANS
Saturday, January 30, 2016, 7:00 PM
Mary Seaton Room

AUCTION 2016
Mad About Science
Saturday, March 5, 2016, 5:30 PM
Clement Gym/Dining Hall

COUNTDOWN TO COMMENCEMENT DINNER FOR THE CLASS OF 2016
Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 6:00 PM
Dining Hall

PARK PLAYERS MUSICAL
Seussical
Thursday, March 10, 2016, 5:30 PM
Friday, March 11 and
Saturday, March 12, 2016, 7:30 PM
Sunday, March 13, 2.30 PM
Theatre

COUNTDOWN TO COMMENCEMENT DINNER FOR THE CLASS OF 2016
Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 6:00 PM
Dining Hall

PPA CHIAVETTA’S BBQ
Friday, May 6, 2016
Rich Family Activity Center

PARK PLAYERS SPRING PRODUCTION
Steel Magnolias
Thursday, May 12, 2016, 5:30 PM
Friday, May 13 and
Saturday, May 14, 7:30 PM
Theatre

SYLVIA GINSBERG MEMORIAL CONCERT
Thursday, May 19, 2016, 1:15 PM
Rich Family Activity Center

COMMENCEMENT
Friday, June 17, 2016
10:30 AM Chapin Quad

REUNION
Friday, June 17 – Sunday, June 19, 2016
10:30 AM Chapin Quad

4TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
Arrowhead Golf Club
Monday, August 15, 2016
10:30 AM Chapin Quad

“Jill approached sports like she did everything in her relationship with Park: with grace and tenacity!”

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"JILL APPROACHED SPORTS... WITH GRACE AND TENACITY!"

>> DEE DEE DANAHY BOOTH ’65
REUNION 2015

CLASS OF 1940: Lilly Reisig Walsh, Harry Baskin, Mary Guadalupe Taylor


CLASS OF 1975: Peter Cookson, Cindy Caldwell Maloney, Mike Davis, Deborah Zitterman Horn, Andrew Zimmerman, Natasha Tucker, Yolanda Amazing Wheeler

CLASS OF 1970: Mary Darby, Jane Harkness, Gordon Ross, Mark Jennet, Reggie Starks, June Jane Hiett, Mark Oliver, Phil Timel Balair, Doug Taylor, Frank Schlegel, Tina Bell, Duncan Kellogg Clarke

CLASS OF 1950: Jean Harnett Balenza, Peter Dow, Vera Monroe, Mimi Dow, Poppy Milloy Fair

CLASS OF 1930: Taddy Taylor Dann ’40, former faculty member

ALUMNI AND CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN: Dorothy Hoffman Bergman ’72, Madeleine Bergman ’10, Mark Karner ’75, Katherine Karner ’10, Carolyn Hoyt Stewart ’81, Mia Stewart ’79, Robert Parke ’72, David Parke ’46

EARLY 1980s: Robin Ross ’80, Carolyn Hoyt Stewart ’81, Tom Dorrin ’82, Joe McMahon ’82

50th Reunion for the Class of 1966!
#ProudPioneers
#ParkClassOf66

ALUMNI AND CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN: Dorothy Hoffman Bergman ’72, Madeleine Bergman ’10, Mark Karner ’75, Katherine Karner ’10, Carolyn Hoyt Stewart ’81, Mia Stewart ’79, Robert Parke ’72, David Parke ’46

CLASS OF 1910 AND FRIENDS: Nicole Bourguignon Palenoff, Mara Berenstich Canato, Jeremy Beasch, DC Wolfe, Torp Higgins

CLASS OF 2005: Scott Silberer, Al Brik, Sara Bhatia, Delphine Buckley Bell, Kristin Petruss Stewart, Elise Blais, Evan Sokolowski

CLASS OF 2015: Camila Eskew, Harry Lipsitz, Katherine Karrer, Brooke Zillig, Joohong Lee, Madeleine Bergman

CLASS OF 2010: Camila Eskew, Harry Lipsitz, Katherine Karrer, Brooke Zillig, Joohong Lee, Madeleine Bergman

CLASS OF 1950: Jean Harnett Balenza, Peter Dow, Vera Monroe, Mimi Dow, Poppy Milloy Fair

CLASS OF 1990 AND FRIENDS: Nicole Bourguignon Palenoff, Mara Berenstich Canato, Jeremy Beasch, DC Wolfe, Torp Higgins


CURRENT AND FORMER FACULTY-STAFF: Chris Lauricella, Max Zelikman, Tom Doran ’82, Carolyn Hoyt Stevens ’81, Jeremy Besch, Ann Burns, Marnie Benatovich Cerrato ’90, and Leslie Occhiotto

ALL ALUMNI INVITED!
SAVE THE DATE FOR
REUNION 2016
June 17 & 18, 2016

Reunion 2016 will celebrate classes ending in 6 and 1.
#ProudPioneers
#ParkClassOf66

ALUMNI ALL ALUMNI INVITED!
1992 – Dr. Benjamin Benedon has a Master’s degree and a Ph.D. in Education. He is Clinical Associate Professor of Biomedical science at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. He published Psychology and Geriatrics: Integrating for an Aging Nation on April 30, 2015.

1993 – Nicole Breuer married Adam Keller on September 19 at Park School.

1995 – Jenna Capp received her Master’s degree in Social Work from SUNY at Buffalo and received the Kenneth L. Brandt Memorial Award from the School of Social Work at UB. This award is “presented to a graduating MSW student who has demonstrated academic performance and determination, exhibit the ability to overcome a personal difficulty or challenge, and c) intends to pursue a career in the health and mental health and disability field.” Jenna wrote, “I do not have a job yet as I still have to finish my current field placement at Neighborhood Health Center. I have accepted another internship at the Institute for Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC).”

1996 – Daniel Zawodzinski ’96 meets with Director of Enrollment Management Martine Benatovich Cerrato ’90 in Frankfurt, Germany, and gives her advice on beer selections.

1997 – Daniel Zawodzinski ’96 marries with Director of Enrollment Management Martine Benatovich Cerrato ’90 in Frankfurt, Germany, and gives her advice on beer selections.

1998 – Ryan Stewart ’03 and wife Megan ’01 welcomed their third baby, Lillian Mary, in December 2014. “My older two are over the moon for their little sister, my wife is doing well, and I couldn’t be happier!”

1999 – Jimmy Ohlbrecht married Jacqueline Jordan Obletz ’95, Jacqueline Jordan Obletz, Jamie Obletz ’99, and wife Megan ’01. He spent time in Chi Town’s downtown and wrote, “My recent return from a few months in China was a major help as I was dealing with a personal difficulty or challenge, and c) intends to pursue a career in the health and mental health and disability field.”


2003 – Kevin Coppola and wife Aly welcomed babies Kerin E. in September 2015 and Dominick in June 2016. Janez Izzac is the lead third grade teacher at Country Elementary School, a public K-3 school in Western MA. He spent time in Chris Drowes’ classroom and wrote, “My visa last spring and the ongoing conversations were a major help to me to continue to learn and grow as a teacher. The Park-educations continue far beyond Upper School.”

Chris Berardi and wife Christine welcomed son Roman James Berardi in May 2015.

2004 – Susanmih Samurah wrote recently, “Argentina is great. My mom moved there when I went to college and I followed her to Sydney after college. I’ve been working here for the past six years and married an Australian boy so I think I am here to stay for a while.” After 11 years in Boston, Kate Peck Funk has moved back to Buffalo to join the staff of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery as Manager of Membership and Leadership Annual Giving. Samantha Friedman Olsen and her husband Andrew welcomed daughter Penelope Rose to their family on June 16, 2015. She joins big brothers Owen, Eli, and Ethan! "Our family is preparing for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Many Park alumni and friends came out for our Centennial History book release party on hand to celebrate this double Pioneer wedding! Sara Manzella ’10 standing in center of top photo and at right with a teammate in the photo below.

Max Weiss is back at Park where he is teaching Ceramics and Cartooning to clubs in the Middle and Upper School as part of a separate arts workshop. Look for an anniversary of the end of the 2013-2014 year on campus in Florence Italy last fall. Tessa obtained a BA in English and Creative Writing."


2009 – Joseph Heussler ’09 married Amanda Rosenberg on June 26, 2015. A large Park contingent was on hand to celebrate this double Pioneer wedding! Sarah Giancana is preparing for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Many Park alumni and friends came out for a fundraiser for Sarah at the West Side Rowing Club in late August.

2010 – Paul Fox interned at Nissan North America’s performance division in Nashville TN last summer. He is involved with planning, product, and communications. He expects to graduate from Marist College with a degree in International Business and a minor in Theatre. He also studied at Marist’s Muski camp in Florence Italy last summer and traveled to Israel, Germany, Spain, and Portugal.

Former faculty and friends – Diana and Bower wrote from Oregon: “We’re happily settled in our pondhouse overlooking the gorgeous Columbia River. We love it!”

2015 – Nicole Brown ’93 and husband married Jacqueline Jordan Obletz, Jamie Obletz ’99, and wife Megan ’01. He spent time in Chi Town’s downtown and wrote, “My recent return from a few months in China was a major help as I was dealing with a personal difficulty or challenge, and c) intends to pursue a career in the health and mental health and disability field.”

Nicole Brown ’93 and husband married Jacqueline Jordan Obletz, Jamie Obletz ’99, and wife Megan ’01. He spent time in Chi Town’s downtown and wrote, “My recent return from a few months in China was a major help as I was dealing with a personal difficulty or challenge, and c) intends to pursue a career in the health and mental health and disability field.”

2016 – Max Weiss ’10 with US students of 2013 and 2014 he worked in both the Los Angeles and Chicago offices of MECOM, an architecture and design firm. Also applied to three graduate school programs (University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, and SUNY Buffalo) and was accepted at all three. He choose SUNY Buffalo and is working on a Master of Architecture. Alex continues to be a scratch golfer and carries four sets of clubs in his car trunk at all times. Natalie Gerich Brabson graduated from Vassar College in May 2015. She earned departmental honors for her major, Hispanic Studies, and was awarded the Antonio Marquez Prize for videos and other digital media. She minored in Creative Writing. Natalie is teaching English for a year in Madrid and will be an employee of the Spanish Government. Dylan Ratigan is working at Northern States Aviation at an Aerial Mapping Pilot. He received a Bachelor of Science in Flight Operations from the University of Delaware in May 2015. He spends his days flying around the country with a laser that maps the ground for mapping companies. He has also been a Flight instructor at Aviation Flight Academy in Sanford FL. Kayla Van Cleave writes, “Just moved to Sweden and would love to get in touch with any Parkies who wanna this way.”

2017 – Ryan Stewart ’03 and wife Megan ’01 welcomed their third baby, Lillian Mary, in December 2014. “My older two are over the moon for their little sister, my wife is doing well, and I couldn’t be happier!”

2018 – Alex Gilberg ’11 and wife Rebecca are expecting a baby so I think I am here to stay for a while.” After 11 years in Boston, Kate Peck Funk has moved back to Buffalo to join the staff of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery as Manager of Membership and Leadership Annual Giving. Samantha Friedman Olsen and her husband Andrew welcomed daughter Penelope Rose to their family on June 16, 2015. She joins big brothers Owen, Eli, and Ethan! "Our family is preparing for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Many Park alumni and friends came out for our Centennial History book release party on hand to celebrate this double Pioneer wedding! Sara Manzella ’10 standing in center of top photo and at right with a teammate in the photo below.

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2019 – Erin Miller is living in Portland OR and works at Modemum Coffee Café.

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THE PARK SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The Park School engages the whole student in a diverse and creative community that nurtures the joy and responsibility of active learning in all, from our youngest learners to our graduates, who leave with the skills essential to college success and the confidence to serve and lead.