IN THIS ISSUE:

Progressive Schools and 21st Century Learning

Science and Technology @ Park

Herb Mols Honored

Proudly Park: Karen Miller and Julian Fraize ’14

Advancement Update

Centennial Capital Campaign
PARK LEGACY STUDENTS

Park is proud of our long family history. Legacy students are the children of Park alumni.

FRONT ROW:
Mia Koessler, Talia Cerrato, Myles Cerrato, Nadia George, Josh Latner, Erik Higgins, Calvin Higgins, Finneghan Cook

MIDDLE ROW:
Chris Wadsworth, Hailey Cerrato, Holly Steveson, Jo Stevens, Summer Harris, Sydney Pfeifer, Connor Levin, Lucas McMahon, Erika Barnes, Cary Killeen

BACK ROW:
Oliver Killeen, Brian Halpern, Oliver Powell, Aidan Powell, Flora Kraatz, Will Derrick, Maggie Parke, Robert Parke, Mia Stevens

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Fall 2013
# Park Pioneer

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COVER PHOTO: Second grade teacher Lisa Wood uses an iPad to identify songbirds and other wildlife on a hike through Park’s marsh. Spring, 2013.
Welcome to The Park School of Buffalo’s eleventh decade of continuous operation! If 2012-13 was mostly focused on understanding and celebrating Park’s past, 2013-14 is all about envisioning and realizing our future.

Our centennial was an amazing milestone. We learned and shared Park’s remarkable century-long history, which in turn deepened our appreciation and passion for Park’s mission and outcomes. This passion became evident in all of our shared celebrations, culminating in last October’s gala evening where hundreds of Parkies came together in living testament to what the School means in their lives.

This passion has also led to a vision of a more sustainable Park School. A new iteration in which our future is more certain and secure, rather than following the occasionally precarious path that we traced through our first hundred years.

Over the last few years all those involved with leading the School – staff and volunteers alike – have laid the groundwork for this greater surety. A small group of loyal and dedicated alumni and friends partnered with our Board of Trustees and the Board of the Park School Foundation to raise $1.3 million and retire our bank debt. Others came together and built a 10-year “Plan for Park” that detailed capital and programmatic improvements aimed at increasing student retention and enrollment (the first phase of this plan, Science @ Park, is already underway). In addition to their already-excellent curriculum and pedagogy, faculty members have embraced the idea of delivering a Park School education that is green, global, kind, and future-focused (see sidebar, page 6).

Eventually all of this planning devolves into hard work, which is where we find ourselves now. Is it paying off? While it’s hard to make sense of the future when one is living in it, we do have a few positive indicators that it may be.

As I write this letter, Park has enrolled 292 students – thirty more than last year and twenty more than we had planned on for this year! Within these numbers are stories of both retention – more students remaining at Park – and attraction – more families in Buffalo seeking out Park for their children. We believe that a flourishing Park School will have an enrollment in the low three hundreds, which is quite attainable within the next few years.

We have also seen an increase in philanthropic giving to the School, both in Annual Fund support and in capital giving. We are so very thankful for this increased support, and hope that it’s linked to the fact that Park’s supporters share our vision of a more sustainable school, and understand that their donations fuel the growth that helps realize this vision.

As you read through this Pioneer you will see plenty of evidence of our focus on signature programs, most notably in this edition is the “future-focused” attention we have paid to both instructional and information technology. Over the last year we have undertaken a series of capital improvements in these areas including: a faster, more stable, and ubiquitous wireless network; 60 terminal computers deployed across the campus; a mobile iPad lab in our lower school; a one-to-one iPad program in grades 5 and 6; a new school management system that provides faculty and students with the tools to create a robust online learning environment; a new external website (which will “go public” early next year); and interactive SMART Boards in lower school classrooms.

This is just one area – in concert with many other capital and programmatic improvements – which we believe will cumulatively result in a Park School that is built to thrive over the next hundred years. This growth won’t happen all at once, but I can envision a wonderful narrative arc, laid out in the next nine Pioneers, that chronicles how our eleventh decade created the foundation for Park’s prosperous second century.

I hope you will join us as the adventure continues!

Chris Lauricella
Head of School
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our 101st year is underway and what a year it’s been so far! As a Park parent, I have the opportunity to talk with students, fellow parents, and the faculty/staff regularly. Through these conversations, I can report that there is a new energy and enthusiasm for Park that’s palpable both on and off campus.

I have been asked often lately for the source of the enthusiasm. Certainly the successful centennial celebrations last year drew much attention from many alumni and other friends who may not have been back to school for some time. Our enrollment is up significantly this year and our new families are excited to be part of the warm and welcoming community that defines The Park School. Our faculty is dedicated and passionate about their work and we have had very little turnover in the past two years. Park is extremely fortunate to have Chris Lauricella as its leader and a strong administrative team who, along with faculty, are committed to fulfilling the mission of the School every day with every student. New programs using improved technology, outdoor classroom spaces and learning resources, and exceptional professional development programs for the faculty also contribute to the momentum Park is experiencing. Finally, all of you who have supported the School as ambassadors, volunteers, and contributors to the Annual Fund and other fundraising initiatives should be credited with helping advance Park. For this, we are truly grateful.

The excitement at Park today is wonderful, but as Board president I can tell you what inspires me most right now is what we are planning for Park’s future. The Science @ Park campaign is well underway toward its ambitious $3.7 million goal to fund a new science building and technology improvements for the School. We have an outstanding Centennial Capital Campaign Committee reaching out to alumni, parents, and other friends to secure significant major gifts during this early part of the campaign (see story on p. 26) and I hope you will respond generously when asked to support this exciting initiative.

I am lucky to serve on a Board of Trustees as hard-working as Park’s, and I salute all trustees, past and present, for their dedicated leadership of this amazing school.

With warm regards,

Melissa Garman Baumgart
President, Board of Trustees

Parent of Gabrielle ’16, Clay ’12 (Wesleyan ’16), and Lucas ’10 (Bard ’14)
More than twenty members of the Board of Visitors were on campus in October for two very active days of observation and work sessions. This visit focused on outdoor education, with board members touring the outdoor classrooms, pond, and marsh.

“The Visitors loved the work that we are doing to use our campus as a learning tool,” said Head of School Chris Lauricella. Visitors were especially interested in the Outdoor Classroom behind Kimball Hall, where they watched a ninth grade English class rehearse a scene from Oedipus Rex and spent time exploring the work that students have done creating these unique outdoor learning spaces. Art teacher Kyle Polaski explained the various features of the space, including the outdoor stage that was constructed by a math class, a miniature sculpture garden, and a stone labyrinth connected to both math and mythology content.

Visitors also spent time visiting classrooms, where they watched lower school teachers utilizing Responsive Classroom methodologies as part of the school’s Kind program. Veteran Board of Visitor members reflected that they are seeing a shift in student behaviors over time because of these methodologies.

Visitors were deeply impressed by quality of the teaching. “Class instruction was done at a very high level,” reported one visitor. Another stated, “It looks like we are poised for another great century!”

The Board of Visitors acts as a sounding board for current programs, continuing traditions, and new ideas. This venture offers an opportunity for alumni and friends of the School to continue or reinvigorate their involvement at Park, and meets on campus twice a year. Through classroom visits and interactive work sessions, this group gives input on important topics affecting the School. The Board will convene again May 15-16, 2014. If you would like additional information on the Board of Visitors, please contact Carolyn Hoyt Stevens ’81, Director of Development, at 716-839-1242 x104 or cstevens@theparkschool.org.

Park is indebted to the Board of Visitors for their input and participation, which are incredibly valuable to the School.

“The Faculty are so intelligent and have such an obvious ability to follow student discussions and take them in fascinating directions.”

>> Board of Visitors Member, October 2013

Restoring the full health of the pond also became a focus of this year’s meeting.

“Over the last few years we have learned that the pond is being nutrient-loaded from an unknown groundwater source,” said Lauricella. “The School is committed to trying to figure out how we, as a community, can help bring the pond back to full health. Doing so in concert with our students will be a powerful piece of ‘active learning’.”
If you pay any attention at all to the world of education, you've likely heard the term "21st Century Skills" tossed around over recent years. As an educator, and particularly an educator at a 101-year-old Progressive school like Park, I am both heartened and ruffled by the recent use of the term.

On one hand, I love the fact that more and more attention is being paid to critical thinking skills, problem-solving ability, and independent, flexible pursuit of knowledge – all things necessary as our children (and we) move deeper into a new, globalized century and all the opportunity and peril that comes with it.

On the other hand, I'd contend that these "new" skills are the same skills that prompted a group of Buffalo parents to contact John Dewey out of frustration with the educational system a century ago. I bristle at the impulse to tout these skills as a magical antidote to the country's educational woes – good teaching takes a lot more thought, patience, and work than that – but I wholly embrace the opportunity to show the wider world what we have known to be successful for practice for quite some time.

THE 11TH DECADE – PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS AND 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

One of the best parts of Progressive teaching is that it requires constant reflection on our practices and curriculum, examining what we do and how we do it through the lens of an ever-changing and evolving group of students in the room. We know what overarching skills are important, and constantly look for new ways to teach them. It makes for hard but gratifying work for our very talented faculty, and I am always impressed by the masterful ways in which I see them succeed at it. I am luckier than most because I have the privilege of watching this all happen in my role as head of the upper school, but also as a dad to two sons, one in middle school and one in lower. I can happily tell you that what I see in each division clearly points to those same skills I outlined above, and I'll add with even greater happiness that none of them are new to our practice.

"PARK HAS BEEN DEVELOPING '21ST CENTURY SKILLS' FOR 101 YEARS ALREADY, AND ALWAYS IN NEW AND EVOLVING WAYS. IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO."

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My son Fox is in Mr. Downey's third-grade class this year. A few weeks ago, their enthusiasm got the best of them while at their library class, and they had to have a class discussion about how to address the issue. I happened to hear a small part of the conversation. The roomful of newly-minted third-graders were engaged in a discussion of what they had done wrong, and Mr. Downey was prompting them to consider and share how they might have acted differently, and what they might do differently next time. I spend most of my time with older students, so to hear such conversation happening in such small voices was inspiring. I love the fact that Fox and his peers are routinely given the opportunity to be reflective and thoughtful about who they are and what they do, and it is even better that they can all do so effectively when given the chance. I believe that these same problem-solving skills will serve Fox forever, and in many, many contexts. As a parent, that fact brings me no small amount of relief and joy.

In our fifth grade, Mrs. Marchewka is working with "flipped classroom" lessons where students, on their own time away from the classroom, use technology to watch and take notes from pre-recorded videos about their science curriculum before addressing the material as a class. They then return to the classroom where, guided by Mrs. Marchewka, they share different perspectives and to benefit from the experience. My son Cal helped to create a flipped classroom video on prime numbers, and I got to watch him manipulate not only the content as he did so, but also the technology he was using to create the video, and the difficult task of considering how to best reach his peers. It all conspired to give Cal a much deeper understanding of the material than he otherwise might have gotten, and his learning was incredibly enriched by a fullness of exposure to so much more than just the content itself. Moreover, it was a project that he initiated and Mrs. Marchewka supported, so his completion of the task left him confident in and proud of what he accomplished. It doesn't get much better than that.

Similarly, our upper school students live a curriculum where their math classes demand that they create problems before they solve them; where their science classes demand authentic, experiential interaction with the wider world; and their history and English classes demand an examination of how old stories, occurrences, and patterns inform and reflect upon current opinions and events. Not knowing something is understood to be okay, as long as we have the wherewithal to seek and find the knowledge we're missing, and the confidence to ask for help if we need it. The democratic nature of our school community relies on student voice to help guide our decision-making. We are all responsible to each other and ourselves, and we become a stronger community for it. Admittedly, this all sometimes slows the process down, involves failures, and demands patience and resilience. I like to think that this is what Dewey meant when he said that school should not reflect life, but should be life itself.

Our founders created Park in response to a system of education that was becoming more and more industrialized, and less and less focused on students as individual learners. Half a century later, Progressive styles of teaching were "rediscovered" in response to the Sputnik and Space-Race push for math and sciences at the expense of the humanities and whole-child education. Now, another half-century later, we stand again as a "new" way of teaching, this time in response to the standardizing methodologies of No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top. Once again, child-centered, student-driven education is "emerging" as a potential best practice, and now it is continuously more supported by increasingly clear brain and cognitive science. As we live our way into this new century, I assert that Park has been developing "21st Century skills" for 101 years already, and always in new and evolving ways. It only makes good sense that we continue to do so.
Several years ago Park adopted Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, and Kindness as our core values. To identify these four, we followed the work of Dr. Rushworth Kidder. Dr. Kidder, who founded the Institute for Global Ethics, posited that human society adheres to a set of universal values that transcend cultural and political boundaries. For more than two decades he asked thousands of people around the world to identify the values they felt were most important to a civil society. Although often reordered across cultures, five values emerged from his work: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Compassion, and Fairness.

To derive Park’s values we replicated Dr. Kidder’s work, asking students and families to develop their own list of values. The results closely mirrored his findings, with the exception that Compassion and Fairness were supplanted by Kindness. In following this work, our hope is to present a set of core values that all members of our incredibly diverse community can understand, endorse, and espouse.

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We believe we are on the right track.

The 2013-14 school year is not only the first year of our 11th decade, it is also a year marked by record enrollment as well as quite a bit of growth in different areas throughout the School. Much of this growth is aligned with the School’s efforts to provide Park students with an education that is Green, Global, Kind and Future-Focused. These are four areas that make a Park School education uniquely powerful, and we invest a good deal of real and human capital in making sure we deliver on this promise. For example, this year we delayed the opening of school by a week, devoting four days to faculty training with expert facilitators focused on our Kindness work.

Why Kindness? In a broad sense, Kindness refers to all of the social and emotional education that we do at Park. This work centers on our core values. While in a narrower context, acts of kindness are a very strong indicator of whether we have truly helped students learn to live by these values. The first three – Respect, Responsibility, and Honesty – seem to be fairly easy to define, understand, and undertake. Kindness, however, is sometimes more elusive. Most people are not spontaneously kind. Human nature and biology often drive us toward selfishness and, for most of us, treating others well is a skill that needs to be developed. To help us learn how to do this, Park has partnered with two organizations that have powerful, research-driven approaches to developing cultures of integrity within schools. Pre-kindergarten through grade six teachers have been training in the Responsive Classroom Approach® for the last three years, while teachers who work with grades 7 through 12 have this year entered into a collaboration with Educators for Social Responsibility to redesign Park’s advisory program.

Thanks to the generosity of the Classes of 1962 and 1963 and their 50th reunion gift campaign, Park has been engaged in Responsive Classroom training since 2011. Responsive Classroom is a widely used, research-based approach to elementary education that increases academic achievement, decreases problem behaviors, improves social skills, and leads to more high-quality instruction.

“RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, AND HONESTY – SEEM TO BE FAIRLY EASY TO DEFINE, UNDERSTAND, AND UNDERTAKE. KINDNESS, HOWEVER, IS SOMETIMES MORE ELUSIVE.”

**PARK’S SIGNATURE PROGRAMS:**

**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.

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

**KIND** refers to rigorous faculty training in social and emotional teaching and learning, and our commitment to creating a community that truly lives our core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and kindness.

**FUTURE-FOCUSED** reminds us that we should always be thinking about providing the 21st Century skills that our graduates will need to be productive, successful, and joyful adults.

Pre-kindergarten teacher Amy Wiese leads students through Morning Meeting, during which the class gathers together to greet one another, share news, and warm up for the day ahead.
The approach we are using consists of a set of classroom and school-wide practices that are designed to deliberately help children develop academic and social-emotional competences. These practices are deliberate, and include activities such as Morning Meeting, Logical Consequences, and Collaborative Problem Solving. (For a complete list and examples of each, see the September 2013 Heads Letter.)

The deliberate elements of this approach is one factor that makes it so powerful, as teachers develop a wide range of classroom activities that foster positive student-to-student interaction that include all students. Another factor is its consistent, school-wide approach to social-emotional development. Research results indicate that when fully and faithfully implemented, Responsive Classroom leads to higher academic achievement, improved teacher-student interactions, and higher quality instruction.

ADVISORY

All Park students in grades 7 through 12 take part in Advisory. Advisories are small groups of approximately 10 students that meet three times per week. It is a fundamental structure for middle and upper school students to develop key life skills, metacognitive skills, and habits of learning in support of academic achievement, post-secondary planning, personal growth, and interpersonal skill development. Advisories create a more personalized learning environment where all students are well known by at least one adult through weekly small group meetings and one-to-one interactions.

While Park has had an Advisory program for many years, this year we partnered with Educators for Social Responsibility to begin to redesign this program. Founded in 1982, ESR is a national leader in school reform and provides professional development, consultation, and educational resources to adults who teach young people in preschool through high school. ESR creates, disseminates, and teaches core practices that reduce educational disparities and facilitate equal access to quality instruction by helping schools build a positive climate and culture. It also enables students to develop and strengthen social skills, emotional competencies, and qualities of character that increase personal and interpersonal efficacy and cultivate social responsibility.

In late August, an ESR facilitator worked with faculty members to identify skills that students need for academic success. These include analyzing academic data, setting and reflecting upon academic and personal goals, managing time, organizing materials, developing efficient study skills, acquiring effective communication skills, working collaboratively with others, problem solving, and advocating for oneself. Such skills become especially important during this developmental time. The faculty also examined a shared set of practices that provide the structure for students to have multiple opportunities to practice and rehearse these skills in an authentic setting with a peer group that supports each other, grows together, and learns from one another.

As with Responsive Classroom, the power of this work comes from a shared understanding of the skills students need to be successful and a set of deliberate approaches to developing these skills. Responsive Classroom and ESR training will be ongoing.

We have deliberately paired these two programs together, with the intention that a student who enters Park as a three-year-old and stays the course to graduation will have the benefit of 15 years of a deliberate, school-wide approach to developing strong social and emotional skills. We have done so because we believe that these “soft” skills are every bit as important to a student’s future success and happiness as academic and intellectual skills.

The School’s new public website – www.theparkschool.org – will go live early in the new year. It will hold information about admissions and alumni contacts and pages, sports schedules, heads’ letters, and news. On the back-end, faculty, staff, students, and parents have been getting familiar with the new SRS – Park OnCampus – which replaced Park Inside. OnCampus is a robust communication and tracking tool that includes messaging, student schedules, family directory, calendar, attendance tracking, assignments, grading, etc.

Students in grades 5 and 6, as well as all lower school students are enjoying using iPads as a learning tool. Middle school students are taking part in a 1-to-1 program while the Lower School is using a lending lab.

“The use of technology in my classroom is not simply a novelty but a vital tool,” says sixth grade teacher Jim Hanlon, who utilizes an interactive SMART Board to deliver content and involve students. Students participate in lessons by interacting with the material on the board, which often makes them more excited about participating in class. “The iPad is yet another amazing tool that aids students in the learning process by exposing them to new and creative ways to learn. My students are truly engaged in the learning process when they are able to utilize technology that is already part of their daily lives outside the classroom.”
SPRING ‘13 WRAP-UP

CREW

Congratulations to four Parkies who are involved in Crew at the West Side Rowing Club. All four placed in the 2013 New York State Rowing Championships last spring in Saratoga Springs. Aidan Powell ’14 and Lauren Gould ’15 (coxswain) won gold in the Junior 4 Men’s Club category. Kendal Smith ’15 earned silver in the women’s 8 Club category and Marissa Jeswald ’13 took third in the Women’s Sculling Clubs Category Double.

LACROSSE

The boys varsity lacrosse team fared well in its inaugural season as a varsity sport. “It’s the first time in many years that we’ve fielded a varsity team and they played competitively,” says Athletic Director Tom Ford, who added that he hopes to have a girls varsity team in place once again in the future.

TENNIS

The girls and boys varsity tennis teams won their share of matches and will be doing winter workouts in preparation for next season.

SOCCER

Park once again hosted the Diminuco Cup, the end-of season tournament in the Parochial Kickers spring soccer league. Congratulations to Lower School Team 1 on taking second place in the Pee Wee division!

Varsity Basketball Teams to Compete in Monsignor Martin League in 2013-14

Boys and girls varsity basketball is going to be a little more intense this season as both teams move to the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association.

“The Park School Athletic program has made great strides over the past couple of years in many sports, especially in varsity basketball,” says Athletic Director Tom Ford. “Our coaching staff has worked countless hours to guide our young men and women to be the best they can be. This step will be a giant positive for our school.”

Park previously competed in the Independent Athletic Conference, where it won the 2012-13 state title in both girls and boys varsity basketball.

“The IAC is a great league and Park will remain in the league for varsity soccer,” says Ford. “Leaving the IAC was a difficult decision. However, we feel that moving to Monsignor Martin is the right move with regard to growing as a school, focusing on a higher level of competition, and being on the map as a school growing its athletic program.”
FALL '13 WRAP-UP

SOCCER
For the first time in recent memory, grades 5 and 6 fielded a fall soccer team. Coached by sixth grade teacher Jim Hanlon, the team had a successful, winning season playing against Tapestry Charter and Olmstead, both in Buffalo. The 7/8 co-ed team, led by first year coach André Taulbee, also had a competitive season.

It was a building year for the girls varsity soccer team, coached by Nick Mendoza, owner of Buffalo’s FC Buffalo soccer team. “We’re fortunate to have a very committed coach,” says Ford of the girls team. “Anytime you’re starting a new program it takes time. The future of the team is bright, especially with the talent coming up from the middle school.” Gaby Baumgart ’16 was named to the First Team for the Monsignor Martin Athletic Association and Sean Carter ’16 earned Second Team recognition.

The boys varsity soccer team, led by returning coach Prisco Houndanon, came on strong at the end of the season. “We beat some schools that are much larger than we are,” says Ford. “The boys played competitively in every game.” Khary Seals ’14 and Zach Linder ’14 earned IAC First Team honors while Julian Fraize ’14, Peter Schultz ’14, and Stephano Occhiuto ’16 garnered Honorable Mention.

Lower schoolers also enjoyed the warm fall by practicing with Coach Chris Downey three times a week into November. They will be well-prepared for competitive play in the Parochial Kickers league next spring when Park will field a grades 1 and 2 team, as well as one for grades 3 and 4.

GOLF
Marc Holzhauer ’16 captured 2nd place in the Mid-West Classic in October when he shot a 73, beating out golfers from other states. “This tournament had plenty of good golfers from all over, and it’s awesome to see Marc come out on top and earn such an amazing accomplishment,” says Ford.

GOLF
Marc Holzhauer ’16

CROSS COUNTRY
Cross country is an intramural sport, coached by kindergarten teacher Cheryl Benzinger. The group practiced four days a week after school. The club competed in several races this fall, including the Veterans Day 5K. The club is open to US students as well as all members of the Park Community.

ALUMNI SOCCER GAME
October 19, 2013

“We had a great turnout with a 50 year span of alums,” said Tripp Higgins ’90, who helped organize the event. “It’s a great tradition and a lot of fun.”

FRONT ROW: Demetre Green, Kevin Campbell, Stefano Occhiuto ’16, Cary Killeen ’15, Adam Kozinn ’02, Coach Prisco Houndanon, Connor Levin ’16, Sam Sun ’14, Khan Hyun ’15, Steve Caprow ’67.

BACK ROW: Zach Linder ’14, Kevin Weise, Tripp Higgins ’90, Todd Levin ’86, Peter Schultz ’14, Jeremy Jiang ’14, Kevin Eng ’01, Jeremy Besch, Giambattista Davis ’14, John Benzinger, Barrett Wadsworth, Bill Pfeifer ’83, Julian Fraize ’14.
Not only was 2012-13 the School’s centennial – complete with a year-long celebration – it was also an Immersion year. The Immersion program occurs every other year, with the primary goal being to completely immerse students in a world outside their own, involving them in opportunities to learn and explore through first-hand experience. It is an academic program that spans a full year of study.

Immersion 2013 included a group that traveled to Misminay Peru to help construct a bathhouse. Another group traveled to Greece, where students spent a day volunteering in an orphanage. Others traveled to Japan. Still another group rode bikes on the C & O Trail and Great Allegheny Passage across 400 miles of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Others traveled to Boston and Cape Cod to study marine biology, and to Washington DC. Closer to home, students explored maritime Lake Erie, Old Fort Niagara in a quest for ghosts (students later were encouraged to challenge their beliefs on whether or not ghosts do, in fact, exist), local architecture, and medieval studies. One group worked with younger students on the School’s ropes course, building self-esteem and confidence in both groups.

“It’s a wonderful program,” says Head of Upper School Jeremy Besch, who was a member of the group that trekked to Peru. “It’s student-driven, so they have a say in developing, planning, and implementing a full year of study. They are more invested because of that.”

Immersion “puts students in positions they would not normally be in,” says English teacher Kerry Reynolds, who was part of the group studying maritime Buffalo. “There is an aspect of risk involved, and it’s very exciting to see students overcome their fears,” she said, referring to a student who overcame her fear of water and learned how to kayak with confidence.

Immersion is not a “class trip.” Nor is it a “vacation,” according to school nurse Michele Shadden, who was part of the group traveling to Japan and was taking part in her fourth immersion experience. “The students are travelers, not tourists. They find a way to navigate and to communicate. They really step up to assimilate in a foreign culture and they are incredibly brave.”

Immersion is a requirement for all students in grades 5-12. For upper school students, Immersion is a half credit course, and students receive a numerical grade that is averaged into their overall GPA.

“It’s such a valuable piece of learning no matter where they go or what they do,” says Director of College Counseling Karen Miller, who was with the Greece group. “It sets a foundation for bonding as a group. It allows older kids to look after younger ones. It’s an incredible learning experience.”

Plans are already taking shape for the 2014-15 Immersion.

“IMMERSION HELPS PARK STUDENTS TO BE CURIOUS, TO EXPLORE, AND TO DISCOVER.”
PSSST...PASS IT ON!

The 2013-14 school year is off and running, and we are excited to announce that the start of this school year saw the highest enrollment in recent memory, with more than 290 students enrolled at Park. This is quite a jump from the 260 enrolled last year.

There is a palpable energy on campus as students attend classes, work on projects, and spend time with friends. College representatives visit Park daily, meeting with our juniors and seniors as they negotiate the admissions process. Students are engaging in discussions in the classroom, exploring the campus with Earth Spirit, and venturing off campus on field trips. Fall sports are in full swing: soccer, tennis, golf, and cross country events are keeping the Pioneer spirit strong.

Enrollment is going strong for next year as well, with wait lists in several grades. Monthly open houses are well-attended, and we are hosting many shadows. After a prospective student shadows Park for the day, he or she is always amazed by our faculty, student involvement, and tight community. Park has been referred to as Western New York’s best kept secret. I cannot tell you how many tours I have led where a parent says, “We drive by Park all the time and had no idea this campus was here.” They quickly realize that Park is a welcoming and caring educational environment that challenges our students while developing strong community leaders, critical thinkers, and kind individuals.

LET’S CONTINUE TO GET THIS SECRET OUT!

Many people have asked me, “What is different this year? Where did all the new students come from?” The answer is simple: the primary source of new students is you! Word of mouth is our strongest recruitment tool, and our community is proudly promoting Park! We thank you for that. Keep referring your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to us, and we will continue to have an amazing group of Parkies who are inquisitive, creative, and enthusiastic about learning.

DO YOU KNOW?

O’Connell & Company – one of Buffalo’s premier performing arts groups – is in residence at The Park School!

This innovative performing arts partnership has already benefited both the School and O’Connell & Company, which made major renovations to the theatre in the Helen Long building over the summer.

“Having O’Connell & Company in residence is a wonderful opportunity,” says head of school Chris Lauricella. “The value of having a professional theatre company on our campus is immeasurable. As a progressive school we believe in active, experiential learning, and I can think of nothing more experiential than having our students and faculty work alongside O’Connell & Company as they stage their productions.”

“Being in residence at The Park School is exciting,” says Mary Kate O’Connell, O’Connell & Company Executive/Artistic Director. “We are thrilled to be here,” she continued. “It’s an incredibly warm, welcoming community and the students are extremely talented. This partnership provides an exceptional range of participation in professional theatrical work for Park students. They will have the opportunity to audition for certain roles and will be able to intern in technical, performance, production, design, and docent positions for our shows.”

The Park Players will present two productions during the 2013-14 school year including a riveting interpretation of Night of January 16th by Ayn Rand which ran November 13-16 and featured Flora Kraatz ’16 and Nico Neglia ’15. The all-school musical is Grease, which will be presented March 13-16, 2014. Additionally, students will have roles in O’Connell & Company’s production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat when it runs April 24-May 25, 2014.

FOREVER PLAID – PLAID TIDINGS

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 22, 2013

THE LADY WITH ALL THE ANSWERS

JANUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 23, 2014

GREASE

MARCH 13 - 16, 2014

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

APRIL 24 - MAY 25, 2014

DIVA BY DIVA – A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN!

2/5, 2/19, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/14, 5/28, 6/11

SUNDAYS AT SEVEN

Dates and times were not available at press time. Watch for information in the coming weeks.
New Faces on Campus

PARK HAS WELcomed several new faculty and staff members.

Theresa Thomasulo  
**Choral Music**  
Thomasulo holds a MMUS in Music from the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies with a major in ethnomusicology, and a BM in Music from the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam. Her teaching experience includes elementary and middle school positions at Craig Elementary School (Niskayuna, NY), Algonquin Middle School (Averill Park, NY), and St. John the Baptist Catholic School (Alden, NY). She is a vocal instructor and a member of the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus.

Julie Berrigan  
**Development Associate and Capital Campaign Coordinator**  
Berrigan holds a MA in Communication and Leadership (focus on Not for Profit Management) from Canisius College and a BA in Communications from Hamilton College. She comes to Park from Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center where she was Director of Development and Marketing. Prior to that, she was Director of Development at Elmwood Franklin School for five years.

Erin Fitzgerald  
**Event Coordinator**  
Fitzgerald comes to Park from Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center where she was responsible for planning major events. She holds a BA in Organizational Studies from the University of Michigan and is an MBA candidate, Canisius College. As Event Coordinator, she will be managing Auction, Reunion, and other events for the School.

Nancy Rey  
**Executive Assistant to the Director of Enrollment Management**  
Rey holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University. She has worked for Delphi, United Technologies, and with her own company, eNano Media. She has served as the temporary Executive Assistant to the Director of Enrollment since May, 2013. No stranger to Park, Rey has been an active parent, trustee, and volunteer since 2006. She has served on the board of trustees since 2010.

Jocelyn Weaver  
**Psychology Intern**  
Weaver comes to Park from Niagara University, where she is working toward her MS/CAS in School Psychology. She holds a BA in Psychology from the University at Buffalo, and an AA in Humanities and Social Science from Niagara County Community College.

Country Fair – The Tradition Continues!

Blustery and rainy weather forced Country Fair, which dates to the 1930s, indoors, but that didn’t dampen the fun for the hundreds of people who attended. The annual fair features student-run booths with games and food for kids of all ages. Highlights of this year’s event included the ever-popular third grade sponge toss, sumo wrestling, and performances by a variety of musicians. There was even a spectacular farmers market, thanks to the Oles Family. Michael Weiner, president of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County was on hand to present Park with a plaque acknowledging the School’s donation to the UWBEC. A portion of the proceeds from Country Fair are donated to the United Way each year.
Park celebrated “Herb Mols Day” on October 30, 2013, the day Herbert J. Mols was posthumously inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2013. As one of Park’s most revered faculty members and coaches, Coach Mols’ reach and influence went far beyond the School. This is a long overdue honor to recognize his tremendous impact on amateur sports throughout Western New York and beyond.

In celebrating Mols, students learned about his legacy and contributions to the School in advisory and class meetings. Several members of the Mols family spent the day at Park, participating in a middle school faculty/student basketball game and planting two McIntosh apple trees in his memory. It was an Orange and Brown day as well.

“THIS IS A LONG-OVERDUE HONOR TO RECOGNIZE HIS TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON AMATEUR SPORTS THROUGHOUT WESTERN NEW YORK AND BEYOND.”

Mols, who planted many trees on our campus, came to Park in the spring of 1946 as a coach and science teacher, and within a short time became athletic director, implementing and expanding sports programs for 27 years. He inspired Park students to achieve an enviable interscholastic record and was revered by many for his commitment to his athletes and students. He was a regional and New York State leader in amateur sports as well, and worked tirelessly to bring the Empire State Games, which he co-founded, to Western New York in 1985 and 1986. He served as manager of the U.S. Men’s basketball team at the 1971 Pan-Am Games in Columbia and the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

Mols was inducted into the Park School Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the founding class of 1997. His wife Ruth worked at Park as well as running the bookstore for many years. Their six children graduated from Park – Sandra ’55, Brenda ’57 (deceased), Gary ’64, Susan ’66, David ’71, and Mary ’73. The lobby of Clement Gym has a permanent display of photos and information about Mols, put together by several alumni who deeply admired him and by members of the Mols family.
Karen Miller started her 24th year at Park in September. For the past 15 years, she has served as the School’s college counselor. Karen recently sat down with us and shared her thoughts about her career at Park.

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR TIME HERE AT PARK. WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE? WHAT POSITIONS HAVE YOU HELD?**

I came to Park in August, 1990 after seeing a help wanted ad for a part-time English/history teacher. I thought “what the heck, I’ll send my resume in.” I had no clue where Park School was. But when I pulled in for my interview and looked around the campus, I thought, “Whoa. This is neat.” I interviewed with faculty member Heather Roberts and Head of School Don Graff and I got the job. At the end of my first year, I was asked if I would consider a new position, Middle School Coordinator. I loved working here and I wanted to make myself indispensable, so I said “yes.”

**WHAT WERE YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF PARK?**

After my interview, and after hearing about all the traditions and the pedagogy, I thought I’d died and gone to heaven. I had taken a class at SUNY Brockport on how to be a progressive teacher and I knew that Park was the place I was supposed to be.

**HOW HAS PARK EVOLVED OR CHANGED DURING YOUR TENURE?**

Delineating middle school and advisory programs were big. We’ve become much better at understanding who we are and living our mission. I’m really feeling empowered by the mission of the School and knowing it IS the right way to educate children. I’ve watched the Upper School grow in how we educate children. We educate holistically. We don’t just stuff students’ brains with factual information. They live it. They learn it. They do it. Our curriculum guides are extremely comprehensive. Mapping has been great; keeping track of what we do so there is a running record creates a way for us to demonstrate the value of what we do.

**WHAT MADE YOU MOVE INTO COLLEGE COUNSELING? HOW HAS COLLEGE COUNSELING CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?**

I became the college advisor when the position opened. My first graduating class was 2002. At the time I was still the coordinator for both middle school and upper school but I knew I wanted to focus on college. College Admissions is more competitive even though the population has shifted. Colleges are very selective. I spend a great deal of time with each student, evaluating the colleges that are the best fit for him or her, assisting with the application processes, writing letters of recommendation. I include parents in every step of the process.

**DID YOU ENVISION BEING A COLLEGE COUNSELOR WHEN YOU WERE STARTING YOUR CAREER?**

No! But I’ve always been one to keep doors open and Park allowed me to do that. How cool is that? I genuinely love my job.

**WHAT ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR TIME AT PARK?**

Working with supportive administrators and colleagues. I try to be a collegial person and I like the people I work with. I try to be helpful. The parents are wonderful. The kids are fantastic. I’ve met a lot of really neat people.

**DESCRIBE YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE IN 10 WORDS OR LESS.**

I thought I’d died and gone to heaven.

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**Faculty Profile**

**KAREN MILLER**

**DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING**

Karen Miller started working with students in 9th grade.

“WE EDUCATE HOLISTICALLY. WE DON’T JUST STUFF STUDENTS’ BRAINS WITH FACTUAL INFORMATION. THEY LIVE IT. THEY LEARN IT. THEY DO IT.”
Julian Fraize is one of those kids who is bound to leave a mark. He’s involved in many activities, both in and out of school.

He certainly made his mark when he delivered remarks at this year’s Opening Day Assembly. Not one to mince words, he captivated his audience, which included the entire student body and faculty.

“I feel truly gifted to have spent so many years as a student here at Park,” he said. “As I’ve started applying to colleges, I’m finding out just how much Park has done for me. I’m lucky enough to have figured out what a special place this is early on. Be mindful of the opportunities you have here, because the more you take advantage of them the better off you will be in your future.”

“He is one of the kindest, most likeable, most reliable students I have ever taught,” says Head of Upper School Jeremy Besch. “He is thoughtful, always honest, and works hard without fail, regardless of the task.”

In addition to having a full plate of activities at Park, for three years he has volunteered as a ski instructor for the adaptive skiing program at Holiday Valley, heading to the slopes several times a week to teach people with developmental or physical disabilities how to ski.

“I really enjoy it,” he says. “It’s great to see the skiers so happy.”

Julian’s passion is sailing. Four years ago he went for his first sail since he was a young boy and would tag along with his dad, who passed away when he was eight years old. “I just sailed with him, and I remember being scared,” he says. “I found his boat at our lake house a few summers ago and decided to take it out. Even though I crashed it, I was hooked.”

Not long after, he attended a sailing camp on Chautauqua Lake, where he met a fellow sailor who has been instrumental in Julian’s education, helping him become a competitive sailor.

Julian races out of the Youngstown Yacht Club as well as the Buffalo Canoe Club in Ridgeway, Ontario. He’s adept at sailing 420s and J29s, and is an active competitor in the Mid-Atlantic Interscholastic Sailing Association. He wrote his Common Application college essay on sailing. His success on the water is significant. He took first place at Fall Cork, a sailing regatta in Kingston, Ontario in September 2012 and second place at the Lightning Junior North American Championship in Nyack, NY in July 2013. In addition, he crews on a J29 sailboat out of the Buffalo Harbor Sailing Club which has been fleet champion for the past two summers. Farther from home, he has competed in large regattas in St. Petersburg, FL, Boston, MA, and other large cities across the United States.

He plans on studying Naval Architecture in college, a degree that will help fulfill his dream of designing and building boats. And he plans on continuing to sail and compete in college and beyond. “College-level sailing is pretty significant,” he says. “I’d eventually like to sail the circuits – ocean races and high level regattas.” For now, he’s focusing on continuing to race and improve his skills as he wraps up his senior year and heads off to college.

“Julian has high expectations for his future,” says Director of College Counseling Karen Miller. “And I’m confident he will achieve them.”
THANK YOU! The outstanding results of our Annual Fund and other fundraising efforts for the 2012-13 Centennial year are due to your generosity. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, please know how much we appreciate your gifts. As we reflected on our history during the Centennial year, we often felt humbled by the incredible support this school we love has received for 100 years. To know that the generosity of the community continues is a testament to the strength of Park today and, I think, an expression of gratitude to the thousands of devoted alumni, parents, and others who have supported Park since the School first opened in 1912.

While it is difficult to capture the highlights of the year in this limited space, here are just a few:

- The 2012-13 Annual Fund campaign exceeded its $250,000 goal by 12%, raising more than $280,000. We thank the many new contributors to Park and the large number of you who increased your gift amounts.
- 100% of Park’s faculty and staff contributed to the Annual Fund, which shows their belief in Park and its future.
- Two anonymous challenges within the Annual Fund were successful:
  - Thanks to many supporters, including a lot of young alumni, we have new scoreboards in the Rich Family Activity Center and a repurposed scoreboard in Clement Gym.
  - Thanks to current parents and many faculty who made extra gifts to the School in June, we have added new equipment to the playground behind the Helen Long Building.
- Our Mary Hammett Lewis Circle of Leadership Donors gave 75% of the unrestricted Annual Fund dollars.
- Alumni participation grew last year thanks to our hard working Class Agents!
- Park’s 1912 Legacy Society added several new members whose bequest or other estate gifts are deeply appreciated.
- “Park After Dark,” our fantastic auction, chaired by parents Gerry and Missy Cornish, set an all-time record for sponsorships and advertisements — $40,000!
- We have made significant progress on the Science @ Park Capital Campaign as alumni and parents (current and past) responded enthusiastically and generously when asked to help with early major gifts.

None of these advancements would be possible without the active involvement of our many volunteers. Our trustees, Park Parents Association members, Annual Fund volunteers, Alumni Association volunteers, Auction Committee members, and others all come together to make the work of the development office possible, and a lot more fun!

Finally, we bid farewell to longtime Auction Coordinator Linda Hursty who retired after eight great years of amazing work. Linda’s leadership was outstanding as she worked with different auction chairs, themes, and sometimes challenging conditions, all with good spirit. She deserves our gratitude for ensuring that the Park School Auction was always lively and memorable, and responsible for a large amount of the philanthropic support Park is so lucky to receive.

Park’s future is bright and the 101st year is off to a strong start in many ways, including the record-setting short amount of time it took our wonderful faculty, staff, and trustees to make their commitments to the 2013-14 Annual Fund campaign. One hundred percent of both groups have already contributed to this year’s campaign!

We appreciate all your support and hope you will help us continue Park’s advancement into its second century.

Carolyn Hoyt Stevens ’81
Director of Development
MARY HAMMETT LEWIS
CIRCLE OF LEADERSHIP DONORS

Every contribution Park receives is celebrated with gratitude and directly supports our students, faculty, and campus. The generous members of our Mary Hammett Lewis Circle of Leadership Donors demonstrate a profound commitment to the School with their significant gifts in support of Park’s mission and vision.

The following donors gave $1,000 or more in restricted and unrestricted gifts for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013. We are exceedingly grateful for their support.

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YOUNG ALUMNI LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Alumni who have graduated within the last 15 years are invited to join the YOUNG ALUMNI LEADERSHIP CIRCLE and experience the benefits of the MARY HAMMETT LEWIS CIRCLE by making a gift of $500 or more. Gifts at this leadership level have a notable and positive impact on the educational programs at Park. Make a gift online at www.theparkschool.org. Thank you!
The lists below recognize our generous donors who contributed to the School during the 2012-13 fiscal year, July 1 - June 30. We are extremely grateful to the supporters listed on the following pages for their commitment to Park and their gift to the School, both of which continually enhance the unique, rigorous Park experience for all students.

We are also grateful for the friends of Park who have made commitments to the Centennial Capital Campaign. These donors will be recognized at the completion of the campaign.

Those listed in bold are members of the Mary Hammett Lewis Circle of Donors whose leadership gifts of $1,000 and above had a tremendous impact on our Annual Fund and other giving campaigns.
Lower school students enjoy a fine fall day on the playground.

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ABOVE: Glen Herman utilizes the Outdoor Classroom with his science students.

RIGHT: Art teacher Kyle Polaske demonstrates the finer points of using a glue gun.
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Sally Pitcher Sword ’42

Paul K. Taefi ’96
Dr. and Mrs. Parviz Taefi

Eleanor Treiber
Evelyn Dunn Mager
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Swinarski

Kenneth Wagner
Louis and Marnie Benatovich
Cerrato ’90

David and Marilyn Weintraub
Harold M. Ginsberg ’74
Jane S. Weintraub ’68

Marilyn Weintraub
Omar and Susanne DeWitt

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The 1912 LEGACY SOCIETY recognizes those individuals who have included The Park School in their will, trust, or other planned gift. Our most sincere gratitude to the alumni, current and past parents, grandparents, and friends who have advised us that the School is included in their estate plans. Planned gifts are a significant way to demonstrate your belief in the mission and vision of Park and help to strengthen the School both now and in the future.

If you have made a provision for Park in your plans, please notify us so that we may thank you and recognize you as a member of the 1912 Legacy Society if you choose. For more information, please contact the Park School Development Office at (716) 839-1243 x104 or by email at development@theparkschool.org.
Little did Clarence residents Steve and Barb Zillig know that they would be creating a lifelong connection to Park when they enrolled their four children in 1996. “A close friend of the family told us about The Park School and the benefits of a private education,” says Steve. “We were intrigued but naive about what private school could be. We thought private schools were religious, military, boarding, or country clubs for spoiled kids.”

After receiving assurance from their friend that Park was different, the Zilligs visited the campus. “We loved the student centric, values-based educating going on here,” he says. “We enrolled all our kids.”

Since joining the Park community, the Zilligs have been extremely generous with their time and financial contributions. “The results of Park’s active learning, getting to know the faculty, and seeing the kids develop great relationships with faculty as well as students in all grades was very rewarding to us and the impetus for our support,” says Steve.

Both Barb and Steve have been active volunteers. Barb quickly became a PPA grade representative, ran Country Fair for the PPA for several years, and was an active auction volunteer as well.

Steve was elected to the board of trustees in 2005 and has attended every Commencement ceremony since. “It’s where I get to experience and understand why Barb and I support the School with our time and monetary gifts,” he says. “I get goose bumps just thinking about Commencement. There is such a feeling of pride and hope. Our graduates can change the world and make it a better place. They are the finest young adults I’ve ever had the pleasure and privilege to work with. One of my favorite Park memories was being able to hand my daughter Brooke her diploma at the 2010 graduation ceremony.”

Steve and Barb have proud memories of Brooke receiving the Helen Long Award – an award based on a student’s character – in 8th grade. Ryan ’07 enjoying his lunch outside every day is another special Park memory. “He would eat outside with a group of students regardless of rain, snow, or cold,” says Barb, as he carried on a true Park tradition going back to the early days of Mary Hammett Lewis and the first decade of Park’s existence.

Steve and Barb are members of the 1912 Legacy Society, which recognizes friends of the School who have provided a future gift to Park in their estate plans. They created this planned gift because they want to be able to make a significant gift to the School and encourage others to do so. “It’s a very long term way of thinking and will assure the success of the School for the next hundred years. It also feels good to leave something meaningful behind.”

To the Zilligs, owners of Jiffy-tite Company, a major manufacturer in Western New York, a Park School education creates young leaders who are critical to the future success of our nation. “The Park School education process can sustain this from generation to generation and we believe that companies need to hire and retain employees of character because they make the best choices and create success.”

The Zilligs encourage other Park parents – of current students and alumni – to support the School. “In our opinion, to make a real difference in our community and the world, we must all support the development of our youth into citizens of character who can lead confidently. There is no better way to do this than by giving to The Park School.”
The Park School is focusing its capital fundraising efforts on significant upgrades to science and technology, including construction of a new science building. Phase 2 of the Centennial Capital Campaign, Science @ Park, follows the successful completion of the Campaign’s first phase, which promoted fiscal sustainability by raising funds to pay off the school’s long-term debt. These phases are part of a ten-year plan designed to grow enrollment and ensure Park’s vitality for the next century.

Science @ Park calls for a $3.7 million investment in science, and is a natural enhancement to Park’s mission, history, and strengths. Park was founded on Progressive education principles that borrowed heavily from the Scientific Method, and the founders understood that children are born with an innate drive to discover how the world actually works. Park’s active approach to learning preserves this love of exploration and experimentation, and our unique natural resources allow students to engage in hands-on experiences both in the classroom and outside on the campus. This type of “real” learning is in short supply in many school settings.

Science @ Park recognizes the strategic importance of strengthening our science curriculum by creating more connections to the campus’s physical attributes and constructing a new science facility. We are excited to deepen our scientific offerings to include advanced coursework in environmental studies and biotechnology, which will prepare graduates for successful careers in these burgeoning fields. We anticipate that successful completion of Science @ Park will lead to increased enrollment from more students interested in a school that is a regional leader in teaching and learning the natural sciences.

In addition to a new science building, Science @ Park includes partnerships that will allow the School to share its campus resources – the pond, the marsh, and the woods – with the larger Western New York community. A key component of the proposed science building will be an interpretive center that holds natural collections, gathered and curated by students. The center will showcase Park’s flora and fauna and serve as the gateway to Park’s campus.

Thanks to many very generous early supporters, we have made significant progress toward the $3.7 million goal. To learn more about this important campaign, please contact Director of Development Carolyn Hoyt Stevens at (716) 839-1243 x104.
Art from a Mathematical Perspective

BY KELLY DONOVAN

The following article appeared on Thursday, June 6, 2013 on the Burchfield Penney Art Center’s blog. Calculus teacher Bill Fedirko has developed a relationship with the Burchfield Penney that has grown over the years. The article is reprinted with permission from the Art Center.

Last Tuesday, May 28th, seven students from the Park School of Buffalo came to the Burchfield Penney to present their class project on the exciting connections between Burchfield and Vector Calculus. Titled The Calculus of Burchfield, the students graphed the vectors present in the backgrounds of Burchfield’s paintings under the direction of their teacher Bill Fedirko.

Before going further, it is important to know about vectors and scalars. Scalars are anything that has a magnitude, for example, 5 meters, 20 degrees Celsius, or 300 calories. Vectors are scalars that also have motion applied to them, meaning they have both magnitude and motion—like 5 knots north, or 60 mph west. Things that are measured in Vectors include wind speed and weather patterns. These movements are visible in Burchfield’s stylized works, such as Dandelion Seed Heads and the Moon where the dandelions are swept up in a windy day. Other works show vectors in the heat waves and radiating qualities of trees, houses, or telephone wires, such as in Song of the Telegraph.

Mr. Fedirko encouraged the students to find out the equation for the vectors present in these paintings. These vectors are visible in the red arrows overlaying the paintings. It wasn’t all easy to do, however. The students had to test many different vector equations to find a good match, and then shift the graph around to find the best fit. Sine and Cosine equations make up the swirling brushwork around the moon, for example. Even through this meticulous process, the results aren’t perfect. Burchfield’s creative license produces a few kinks, such as the dandelions that curve opposite the rest. Even so, the motion present in the work is undeniable.

To help envision this motion, the students wanted to make different graphs instead of the red arrows. What they produced, using Maple algebra software, is an art in and of itself. Using the vectors as a base, students applied a gradient overlay. The colorful graphs that resulted resemble op art of the 1960’s.

What does this mean for Burchfield? Was he a vector genius? While that’s hard to say, Mr. Fedirko suggests that it may have been part of Burchfield’s intuition. Burchfield painted around the time when the theory of the atom and particular motion was adapting to new ideas of radiation and wavelengths, which may have also served as inspiration. Even with these scientific discoveries, Burchfield painted directly from nature, recording the dynamism that is omnipresent. But to graph all of these motions and movements would take an infinite amount of time. “Some things are so awesome, it’s hard to imagine they were created without a God,” Fedirko remarked. This transcendental idealism has long been present in art, but not so much in mathematics. It’s hard to introduce something so vast and unknown into a field that is laden with answers to nearly everything. The motion present in nature is like the motion present in a vector, but whereas vectors require a constant—“What is the source of these pure [natural] constants?” Fedirko asks.

This profound question left the audience awestruck. Burchfield may have been onto the answer by recording the vectors, or changes, that happened during his lifetime—the changing winds, the stormy clouds and heat energy that hums in the natural world.

Kelly Donovan is a student at SUNY Buffalo State, who was an intern at the Burchfield Penney Art Center. She studies Art and is working towards a minor in Museum Studies. Kelly is from Buffalo, and lives in Amherst, New York. She participates on campus as a part of the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program, Student Ambassadors, Art and Culture Enthusiasts, and the Wilderness Adventure Club. Kelly enjoys maps, bikes, estate sales, computers, and dogs. She hopes to fly a plane someday soon and her blood type is A negative.

SPRING BREAK VACATION CAMP
April 14-18

SOCcer CAMP
June 30 - July 3

SUMMER DAY CAMP
July 7-August 15

BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP
August 18-22

COLLEGE COMMON
APPLICATION CAMP
August 18-22

SUMMER SCHOLARS
August 18-22

GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP
August 25-29

The Park School
summer camps

Park will offer a variety of day camps in 2014. All camps are open to both Park School students and to students from other schools.

For a complete description of each camp, see www.theparkschool.org/camp
2013 College Acceptances & Class Day Awards

Park School students are well prepared for the rigors of the college experience. Our graduates matriculate to a variety of colleges ranking from selective to most selective. Following is a list of members of the Class of 2013 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.

Casey Bolles
Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, City College of New York
University of Rochester
SUNY College at Brockport
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Scholarship for Academic Excellence
Erie-Niagara School Superintendents’ Association Award Recognition
Personal Growth Award

Sean Buckley
Hilbert College
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Buffalo State College of SUNY

Shelby Buyers
Florida Atlantic University
Hiram College
Rochester Institute of Technology
St. John Fisher College
St. Lawrence University
SUNY College at Geneseo
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Skidmore College
Tom Bailey Drama Award
Vocal Leadership in the Choral Arts Award

Joshu Creel
Brandeis University
Carleton College
Drexel University
Emerson College
Hartwick College
Haverford College
Ithaca College
Kenyon College
Macalester College
Northwestern University
Pitzer College
SUNY Oswego
Ursinus College
Bowdoin College
Wesleyan College
National Hispanic Recognition Program

Loni Crittenden
Berklee College of Music
Columbia College (School of Fine and Performing Arts)
Triple C Award
State of New York Office of the State Comptroller Achievement Award
Hertha Ball Creative Writing Award

Domonique Griffin
Canisius College
Loyola University Maryland
SUNY Oswego
Trinity College
University at Buffalo, SUNY
University of Rochester
Drexel University
English Award
Senior Thesis Recognition for Honorable Mention

Deija James
Buffalo State College of SUNY
Canisius College
Hamphire University
Washington and Jefferson College
Equity and Justice Award
Outstanding Community Service Recognition

Marissa Jeswald
Canisius College
Duquesne University
Marietta College
Niagara University
State of New York Office of the State Comptroller Achievement Award
Erie-Niagara School Superintendents’ Association Academic Achievement Award Recognition
Park Faculty Award
Instrumental Music Award
Senior Thesis Recognition for Superior Achievement
Outstanding Community Service Recognition

Tristan Koch
Allegheny College
Baldwin Wallace University
Canisius College
Goucher College
Ithaca College
Niagara University
St. Bonaventure University
SUNY Oswego
Section VI Scholar Athlete, Honorable Mention

Tom Lam
Ferris State University
Stacy Liang
Boston University
University of Denver
University of Miami
Michigan State University
Penn State University
Jane Plimpton ’37 History Award

Madeline McDonnell
Canisius College
Duquesne University
John Carroll University
Loyola University Chicago
Mercyhurst University
University of Dayton
West Virginia University
Xavier University

Jane McGieveron
Albany College of Pharmacy
Binghamton University
Canisius College
D’Youville College
Hartwick College
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Ohio Northern University
SUNY Oswego
University of the Sciences, Philadelphia

Jesika Mosher
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Outstanding Community Service Recognition

Hohyun Park
The George Washington University
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Northeastern University
Section VI Scholar Athlete
Outstanding Community Service Recognition

Noah Pfeiffer
University of Denver
SUNY College at Geneseo
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Independent Health & Business First Community All-Star
Student Government Award
Tom Bailey Drama Award

Destinee Smalls
SUNY College at Buffalo
Canisius College
Daemen College
Gannon University
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Erie Community College

Hannah Sudano
Babson College
Bentley University
Bryant College
Elon University
Fairfield University
Ithaca College
SUNY at Albany
American Red Cross High School Challenge Scholarship
Outstanding Community Service Recognition

Zhangyi (Christina) Wan
Northeastern University
The Ohio State University
SUNY College at Geneseo
Triple C Award
Core Values Recognition Award

Davon Winkelman
Hilbert College
Point Park University
St. Bonaventure University

Saveon Winkelman
Central Piedmont Community College
Gaston College
Erie Community College

Linnea Wood
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Wingate University
Niagara County Community College
Outstanding Community Service Recognition

Jinhao Zhang
Drexel University – Honors Program
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Rochester Institute of Technology
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Erie-Niagara School Superintendents’ Association Academic Achievement Award Recognition
Most Intrinsinc Motivation Award

Xiaowen Zhang
University at Denver
University of Illinois at Chicago
Northeastern University
Philadelphia University
Section VI Scholar Athlete
Park’s 91st Commencement saw 26 Centennial seniors graduate on a lovely Friday morning, June 14, 2013. This has been a special year for the graduating class, as they celebrated Park’s 100 years of continuous Progressive education along with fellow students, alumni, faculty, parents, and friends.

In addressing the Class of 2013, Head of School Chris Lauricella said, “We know your potential before you do, and we do everything we can to help you realize it. We know from those that have come before you that you will be very comfortable navigating college. We know that you won’t waste precious time trying to find yourselves because we never let you get lost to begin with. And we know that you will be one of the few students in your class who will not be stumped when your professors ask you ‘what do you think’.”

President of the Class of 2013, Jane McGiveron, said in her remarks, “We’ll always be the ‘Centennial Seniors’ and no one can take that away from us. We will always be linked – we can always look back to these past four years, and to this day, and remember we are never alone. We will always have The Park School.” Her reflections also included a specific memory of each member of the senior class.

Former faculty member Kelly Aja, unanimously selected by the senior class, was this year’s Commencement speaker. “You are done with upper school and today you are saying goodbye to your life as a student of The Park School. You are about to become alumni,” she said. “You are at the end of one monumental stage of life and on the doorstep of another. There are very few times in life when we are keenly aware of the importance of the event we are experiencing in real time. When these moments come, we should slow down, look around, and try to take it all in. So, take a look at each other. Make a promise to keep in touch. Let this day, your graduation from Park, sink in.”

Seniors received diplomas with the 100 year logo embossed on the cover, something no other student will receive. Diplomas were presented by Melissa Baumgart, president of the board of trustees. The Pioneer Award was presented to Park School Volunteers, whose active involvement for one hundred years, culminating in a once-a-lifetime centennial celebration year, has made The Park School the place it is today – warm and welcoming to students, faculty, and parents alike – providing an educational experience unlike any other school. Past parent and friend of the School Daniel Oles gave the invocation and benediction.
Joe has been an active Park parent, class agent, and member of the Centennial Celebration Committee. Park welcomed Joe as President of the Alumni Association last spring. Since taking on the Association presidency, he’s been working diligently to create more opportunities to connect alumni with each other and the School.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF. WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THESE DAYS?

I run a small business, Audubon Machinery in North Tonawanda. We have two subsidiaries – OGSI which manufactures oxygen generators and is in 70 countries, and Schyler Machine, which supplies the life sciences biomedical field. I have three sons who keep me busy. One (Luke) is a senior at Park. This winter, my son Daniel and I will coach the Wheatfield Blades 18U AAA travel hockey team. Both of my younger sons (Luke and Jon) play on the team.

WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO SERVE PARK AS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT?

I loved my time at Park. Most of my closest friends in life are people I met here. I love the community. It is really a great group of people. I want to give back.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR PARK ALUMNI NOW THAT YOU ARE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

Over the last 25 years, everyone who has held this position has added to the group and what it does. I want to continue that, and find enough different things in enough places to reconnect alumni. We had our first golf outing in September which was a lot of fun and we’ll be doing that again in August 2014. We held the former faculty/staff appreciation last August and I want to build on that. I think it’s really important to connect faculty and alumni. I also want to try to show younger alumni what’s available in Western New York. That is a mission of mine – to show them the opportunities that are right here.

SHARE A FAVORITE PARK MEMORY.

Our basketball team won the division championship in 1981 and the banner still hangs in Rich Activity Center. I point to it and tell my boys about it every time we are there together.

WHAT MAKES A PARK SCHOOL EDUCATION SPECIAL?

The same thing that has always made the school special: small classes and lots of individual attention.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO GRADUATING SENIORS?

To “remember that we are all faced with a series of great opportunities, brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.” (Charles Swindoll)
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you know the whereabouts of any of our “lost” alumni? If you know how to reach any of the alums listed below, please contact the Development Office, 716-839-1243 x130 or email alumni@theparkschool.org. Thank you for helping us keep all Park School alumni connected!

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

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More than 150 alumni, former faculty, staff, and friends journeyed back to Park for Reunion 2013 over the weekend of June 14–16. Alumni from the 1940s through the Class of 2013 were on hand to honor Classes ending in “3” and “8” along with the Class of 1963 as it celebrated its 50th Reunion.

The festivities kicked off Friday with the School’s 91st Commencement followed by class parties that evening. Head of School Chris Lauricella lead a campus tour for approximately 40 alums, with visits to Clement Gym, Hamlin Hall, and other favorite spots on campus. Director of College Counseling Karen Miller, Librarian Leslie Occhiuto, and Head of Upper School Jeremy Besch were on hand to answer questions. The Alumni Association held a meeting midday on Saturday.

The Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony got the Saturday evening celebration underway as Phil Marshall ’63 was recognized for his achievements by classmate Bill Russell.

“In 1959-63 we had in basketball – Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell, the other one, and Bob Cousy. Michael Jordan was not born yet,” said William H. Russell ’63 in his introductory remarks. “In football we had Johnny Unitas, Jack Kemp, and Cookie Gilchrist. Steve Tasker wasn’t born yet. In baseball we had Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, and you got it – Derek Jeter wasn’t born yet either. At Park we had Phil Marshall!”

Marshall’s athletic prowess is legendary. He lettered in baseball, basketball, and football, and captained each team his senior year. He was previously immortalized in the 1963 Spark.

Not only was Marshall a great athlete, he was a leader of his class and school. He was class president senior year, took part in theatre productions as well as many other activities. Marshall is still an active sports enthusiast, counting golfing and biking among his favorite pastimes. In his acceptance, Marshall was touched. “Today is not just another day at Park for me. It is a most special day indeed and I thank you for this honor.”

Marshall joins 38 other Park School Sports Hall of Fame inductees. The Hall of Fame was created in 1997 and allows Park School alumni the opportunity to give recognition to those who have contributed to Park’s athletic history. The Hall of Fame acknowledges student athletes, coaches, and contributors who exemplified the Park School spirit.

Alumni Awards were also presented, with this year’s Alumni Service Award going to Bob Montgomery ’55.

Montgomery was recognized for his long and dedicated service and support of The Park School. A Class Agent for the Class of ’55, he serves as Co-Chair of the Centennial Capital Campaign and has been a loyal leader in giving for many years.

“Mr. Montgomery is a ‘game changer,’ and a key figure in Park’s effort to become more fiscally sustainable,” said Head of School Chris Lauricella. “In 2008 Bob recognized that the School’s outstanding bank debt of $1.3 million was a major liability, particularly in light of the Great Recession.” He generously provided a challenge gift that focused our efforts to raise money to meet his challenge, which we did successfully in March of 2012.

“With this immediate concern out of the way, Bob joined a group that was tasked with developing a Plan for Park that went beyond sustainability, seeking to determine which key strategic initiatives were necessary to help Park thrive in its next century,” continued Lauricella. “As these initiatives became clear, Bob went on to co-chair our current Science @ Park campaign, where he is once again focusing his efforts on helping the School raise funds for major capital improvements.”

Noah Pfeiffer was awarded the Alumni Senior Award. “Noah sets the tone for the way all Parkies should be,” said Head of Upper School Jeremy Besch. “He is a great and well-rounded leader.”

Pfeiffer took part in many different activities while at Park, including varsity basketball, theatre, Coffee House, and student government. He attends SUNY Geneseo.

Alumni Award Recipients Noah Pfeiffer ’13 and Bob Montgomery ’55 with Alumni Association President Joe McMahon and Head of School Chris Lauricella
FALL 2013

CLASS OF 2013: Noah Pfeiffer, Joshu Creel, Marissa Jeswald, Sean Buckley, Hannah Sudano, Saveon Winkelman


CLASS OF 1968: Debbie Smith Sheedy, Margo Davis, Lorna Walker, Oron Hailpern McKay, John Sheedy

CLASS OF 1970: Frank Riforgiato, Rhonda Bachmann, Missy Danahy, Mark Smith, Jenny Wood

CLASS OF 1973: First row: Mary Mols Siedman, Alison Clarkson, Jay Huddleston, Nan Lipsitz Haynes
Second row: Jim Siggelkow, Lewis Mancini ’89, Debra Sevillian Poles, Michael Burns, Julie Knopp, Mark Karrer, Doug Brown, Drorah Setel, Lisa Shames

CLASS OF 1978: Eric Maki, Spencer Patterson, Bill Heussler, their 8th grade teacher Patty Cohen Gelman ’66, Barbara Siegfried Tschamler, John Napier, Jim Pacciotti


CLASS OF 1993: Yvette Brooks Galley, Sarah Hezel, Collin Cook, Christina Leed Nelson, Nicole Parish Brown, Amos Marvel, Kristen Heisner

CLASS OF 2008: Jud Heussler, Amanda Rosenberg, Abby Sakowski, Ned Eskew

CLASS OF 2013: Noah Pfeiffer, Joshu Creel, Marissa Jeswald, Sean Buckley, Hannah Sudano, Saveon Winkelman

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Class Agents

Class Agents are important to Park’s alumni efforts, serving as a direct connection between classmates and the School. Strong relationships between Park and its alumni depend upon an effective Class Agent program. The responsibilities of a Class Agent are simple and require only a modest commitment: send email updates to your class with Park news, help locate “lost” alumni, and attend alumni board meetings and Park events as you are able. If you are interested in serving as a Class Agent (even if your class already has one!) please contact the Development Office at Park at 716-839-1243 x130 or alumni@theparkschool.org. There are gaps to fill as you will note in the list that follows.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARK ORCHESTRA @ KLEINHANS
Saturday, February 22, 2014, 7:00 pm

Park School Orchestra and the Lower School Ensemble will perform at Kleinhan’s Music Hall as part of the Buffalo Philharmonic’s Community Spotlight Series. Maestro Max Zelikman received kudos from JoAnn Falletta, Music Director of the Buffalo Philharmonic after last winter’s performance:

“I am writing a thank you to you and the Park School orchestra for your wonderful performance at Kleinhan's. I was delighted to have the opportunity to hear your musicians, and I so much enjoyed their music and your passionate and engaging leadership. Bravo to all of you, and warmest thanks – your friend and fan, JoAnn Falletta.”

AUCTION 2014 – “BACK TO NATURE”
Saturday, March 8, 2014
Clement Gym/Dining Hall

Join us for a night of fun! This year’s auction is being chaired by parents Trevor and Wende Mollenberg Stevenson ’97.

MUSICAL – GREASE
Thursday, March 13, 2014: 5:30 pm
Friday, March 14 & Saturday, March 15, 2014: 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 16, 2014: 2:30 pm
Theatre

Enjoy an all-school performance of this 1950s favorite.

COUNTDOWN TO COMMENCEMENT DINNER
Thursday, March 20, 2014, 6:00 pm
Dining Hall

All alumni are invited to take part in this Park School tradition. Park alumni serve dinner to the senior class, welcome them as alumni, and treat them to a special program.

CHIAVETTA’S BBQ
Friday, May 2, 2014, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Rich Activity Center

You know you love Chiavetta’s! Support the School. Buy dinner here!

SYLVIA GINSBERG MEMORIAL CONCERT
Thursday, May 15, 2014, 1:30 pm
Clement Gym

This special concert features performances by Park musicians and choral ensembles in a tribute to the late Sylvia Ginsberg and her passion for music.

COMMENCEMENT
Friday, June 13, 2014, 10:30 am
Chapin Quad

Celebrate the Class of 2014.

REUNION 2014
Friday, June 13 - Sunday, June 15, 2014

2ND ANNUAL PARK GOLF OUTING
Monday, August 18

The 2013 Sylvia Ginsberg Memorial Concert in Clement Gym.

ALUMNI
In Memoriam

MARCH 2013 THROUGH OCTOBER 2013
We extend our condolences to the friends and family of these alumni and friends of the School.

Mary Lee Bachmann
May 30, 2013
Mother of Charles ’80 and Rhonda Bachmann ’70

Barbara Neal Beeson ’36
October 28, 2013
Sister of Ray C. “Pete” Neal Jr. ’46 (d.), Jean Neal Sharp ’40 (d.), and Peggy Neal Taylor ’33 (d.)

Martha Louise Burke
September 30, 2013
Former trustee and mother of Michael Burke ’76

Valerie Caldwell ’74
August 28, 2013
Sister of Wendy Caldwell Maloney ’75
Daughter of Perry Caldwell ’47

James Davis ’50
Summer 2013

Clarissa Clement Ewing ’44
March 24, 2013

Jane Hirsch Cole Godin ’55
August 31, 2013
Sister of Suzanne Hirsch ’65

Jane Goldman
October 14, 2013
Wife of Mark Goldman ’82

Judith Goldman ’87
July 9, 2013
Daughter of former faculty Elisabeth Goldman Ruchkin
Sister of Mark Goldman ’82

Arthur Gunzberg
October 26, 2013
Father of Guy Gunzberg ’58 and Lynn Gunzberg ’62 (d.)

Elizabeth “Bonnie” Parsons Holmes ’50
August 28, 2013

Irving Jennings
October 2, 2013
Husband of Carol Raymond Jennings ’47

Joyce Keller
January 13, 2013
Mother of Fred Keller ’68

Spencer Kellogg II ’31
June 20, 2013

Peter Klaussen ’41
February 18, 2012

Mary Lou Weil Kraetz ’41
August 16, 2013

John Krakauer ’58
March 4, 2013
Brother of Thomas Krakauer ’59

Ann Dobbie Kuhr ’45
September 18, 2013

Winifred H. Morrison, PhD
September 18, 2013
Former faculty member and mother of Robert ’65 and Jim Morrison ’68

Mary Shearer Pitkin ’34
May 9, 2013
Mother of Mary Pitkin ’74

Renea Reese
June 13, 2013
Mother of Krista Reese Lehde ’02, Robert ’04, Andrea ’07

John R. Russ ’57
January 26, 2013
Brother of Karen Russ Omel ’52

Carol Sagraves
April 29, 2013
Grandmother of Madeline ’11, Caroline ’15, and Gregory Connors ’17

J. Frederick Schoellkopf V
August 23, 2013
Father of J. Frederick Schoellkopf VI ’84

David Setzer
March 17, 2013
Husband of Margie Turgeon-Setzer ’78

Jane Neal Sharp ’40
January 20, 2013
Sister of Ray C. “Pete” Neal Jr. ’46 (d.), Barbara Neal Beeson ’36 (d.), and Peggy Neal Taylor ’33 (d.)

David Stewart ’55
June 20, 2013

Allen Spaulding ’62
June 5, 2013

Judith Van Liew
July 8, 2013
Former President, Board of Trustees
Mother of Greg ’78, Andrea ’79, and Joel ’81 Van Liew

Edward O. Watts Sr.
October 31, 2013
Father of Edward O. Watts Jr. ’91

Stewart Whitney
May 6, 2013
Father of Bo Whitney
Alumni Speaker Series Recap

The Park community enjoyed visits from four notable alumni as part of the inaugural PPA Guest Speaker series during the 2012-13 year. Each shared what they have been up to since graduation, how they are having an impact on the world at large, and Park’s influence on their career and life.

ANDREA BERARDI ’04 led the series in November with a presentation on her career in the biological sciences and plant genetics, “Paving the Way to a Career in the Sciences.” A graduate of Colgate University and a PhD candidate in Biology at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville where she is a graduate teaching assistant, she captivated students and guests with informative presentations.

NNENNA KALAYA (SISI) OKEREKE ’87 MD shared her Park School experiences in February. She is a child/adolescent psychiatrist and a psychiatry professor affiliated with Hofstra North Shore-Long Island Jewish School of Medicine and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University and her MD from the University at Buffalo Medical School.

ANNE ROBINSON WADSWORTH ’77, founder and Executive Director of Buffalo-based Girls Education Collaborative, enlightened students and faculty alike when she spoke in May about her work building a boarding school for 1,500 girls in grades K-secondary in Kitenga, Tanzania. She summed up the influence of Park on her life: “These are things that were part and parcel of my Park experience. Park is a caring community where one thinks not only of themselves, but others too. It is a place where you can take a chance. It’s a place where unleashing who you are is celebrated, and that brings confidence.” Anne is a graduate of Bowdoin College and has an MPA from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Administration at Syracuse University.

In April, Park was pleased to host FRED KELLER ’68, Hollywood producer, director, and screenwriter. He spent time with Park’s upper school students in an animated discussion on “Making it in Hollywood” before visiting with the 6th grade to discuss his film Tuck Everlasting (1981), which is part of their curriculum. Keller’s credits include House, 24, CSI: Miami, Boomtown, The Pretender, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and Blue Bloods. He attended Park from 7th to 12th grade and graduated from Hamilton College.

“ANYONE WHO GRADUATES FROM PARK IS IN A POSITION TO STUDY MEDICINE IF THEY WANT TO.”

>> DR. NNENNA (SISI) KALAYA OKEREKE ’87

THE PARK SCHOOL OF BUFFALO CENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK

Published last year for the School’s centennial, copies are available through the Development office.

If you have not received a copy, which is a gift from the School, please call Amy Diati at 716-839-1243 x100 or email her at adiati@theparkschool.org.
1942 – Phyllis W. Pierce received a 2013 Buffalo Ambassador of the Year Beacon Award from Visit Buffalo Niagara.

1943 – Barbara Morrison Feldman is a docent at the Buffalo Zoo.

1950 – Poppy Morey Pratt wrote, “Just wanted to pass on the sad news of the death of Jim Davis during the past summer. One year ago he spent some time in Massachusetts with Bill Bridge and me which we enjoyed with lots of laughs and sightseeing.”

1951 – David C. King’s book, Benedict Arnold: The Traitor Within (New Lights Press), was published. David is the author of more than 70 books for both adults and young-adult readers. He specializes in American history and biography, as well as studies of other cultures. He lives in the Berkshires with his wife, Sharon.

1952 – Mark Berghash has a new website, www.markberghash.com, which details his 33 year career in conceptual and classical portraits. Mark’s work can be found in major museums and private collections in the U.S. and abroad.

1954 – Susanne Hecht Goldstein writes, “Not a day goes by that Park School and my time there is not part of my life!” She joined Jeremy Besch, head of upper school, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art recently. Margot Victor Glick, Barbara Hurwitz Davis ’53 and Suzy traveled to Europe together this fall.


1959 – Jerry Jacobstein enjoyed a mini Park School reunion in February 2013 over lunch in Baltimore with fellow Parkies Charlie Cheney ’59 and Tim Finnell ’58 and their wives. A great time was had by all!

1961 – Hilary Harty traveled to North Korea in spring 2013. “It was very interesting!” she writes.

1962 – Members of the Class of 1962 gathered for a mini reunion in Buffalo last May. The Clan of ’62 “Mini Reunion + 1” enjoyed two busy days together, touring the Richardson Complex and the Botanical Gardens, and the Historical Society’s Resource Center, lunching at the Larkin, attending a performance at Shea’s, and spending time at the home of Linda Angert Kahn’s summer place in Canada.

We have a two room home and a large garden. We have electricity most of the time but no running water or cell service at home. The high school where I teach gets a strong enough cell signal so that I can connect to the internet. It is beautiful here. We are surrounded on three sides by the Drakensburg mountains. The satisfying days seem to outweigh the frustrating days.”

1967 – Debbie Hoffman Kulok and Dorothy Hoffman Bergman ’72 visited CBS Studios where Debbie’s daughter is a broadcast assistant to talk show host Charlie Rose. They enjoyed an impromptu visit with co-anchor Gayle King on the set of CBS This Morning.

1969 – Lewis Mancini has published Does Everyone Get a Turn to be God? The book is written under the pen name Nemo Tee Noon, MD. After 40 years, classmates Peter Alt and A.J. Block reunited in Los Angeles, CA. Peter was visiting his son Andrew who is a guitarist and discovered A.J. lives two miles away. “It was great to get together after so many years,” said Peter.

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1971 – Tom Munschauer has received the Bonnie and John McCandell Citizen’s Award for outstanding community service to Middlebury (VT) residents from Middlebury College. Tom received his award in a ceremony at the college on June 11. He was recognized not only for his work as a vet and as a supporter of the local humane society, but also for his many major contributions to the arts in the Middlebury community. Said Middlebury college president Ronald D. Liebowitz: “Our community – both its people and its arts – are richer because of Tom Munschauer’s energy and expertise.” He was profiled in Park Profiles in September.

Elizabeth Rose Stanton has published a children’s book Henny, a picture book she wrote and illustrated. It will be released by Simon & Schuster on January 7, 2014. Beth has also signed a contract for another picture book with Simon & Schuster due in early 2016. She and her husband Lee live in Seattle, WA.

1972 – Cinematographer Newton Thomas Sigel is in post-production on two feature films – Seventh Sun starring Julianne Moore and Jeff Bridges (out January 17, 2014) and X-Men: Days of Future Past starring Jennifer Lawrence (due in May 2014).

1973 – Nan Lipsitz Haynes has been named to the SUNY Empire State College Niagara Frontier Center Alumni Honor Roll which recognizes graduates for their service to the community and the college. Haynes received her BA in 1988 and a JD from the University at Buffalo in 1992 (magna cum laude). She practiced law with the firm of Lipsitz & Ponterio from 1995-2002, concentrating on environmental, occupational, and civil rights. She has taught research and writing at UB Law School since 2002. Drorah Setel is the Reform Rabbi and a member of the Jewish Studies Faculty at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, NC. AHA is a pluralistic, international college preparatory boarding school - the only one in the world. There are approximately 175 students in grades 9-12. Like Park School, we have a very student-centered learning environment, beautiful space to explore (100 acres!), and a diverse, committed faculty and staff. I miss Buffalo but I love what I’m doing and hope in some way to emulate the wonderful teachers I had at Park. I hope anyone passing through Greensboro will give me a call – I live in a big house on campus with plenty of room for visitors! If you’re interested, there’s more info about AHA at www.americanhebrewacademy.org.

1974 – Cynthia Bradley Crippen is working in the mortgage business and has five grandchildren with another on the way. Cynthia Pearce LeMay and her sister Cathy Pearce Williams ’71 have created the BattleSaint project, which raises funds for troops and veterans. The project features unique, handmade wooden bracelets that honor soldiers’ service and “combat scarves” which provide protection from bad weather and sand storms. A donation from each bracelet and scarf is made to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund to help wounded warriors when they return with physical rehabilitation, traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress. See www.battlesaint.com for more information.

1975 – Leslie Bunis Ohl, Holly Cranz, Wendy Caldwell Maloney, and Lynne Rodenberg Gollifher, all Class of 1975, at the Blue Monk in Buffalo.


1978 – Peter Smith was recently promoted to VP of Operations for the Flowserve Corporation. Bill Heussler is a commercial realtor for Realty USA and in business development at Next Point in Buffalo.

1981 – From Andrew Morrison, “Greetings Park Community. I wanted to let you know I recently began working with Oxfam America as its Gift Planning Officer, focusing on Legacy Gifts such as bequests and life income vehicles (i.e. Charitable Gift Annuities).

1982 – Tom Doran writes, “I have devoted myself full time to screenwriting. Currently I am seeking representation for my screenplay and I am working on my next project with Screenwriting U.” Denise Price has received a 2013 Beacon Award as Tourism Volunteer of the Year from Visit Buffalo Niagara.

1993 – Lisa Gelman Koessler and her husband Greg, welcomed Ryan Matthew Koessler on June 25, 2013. He joins big sister Mia who is in kindergarten at Park. Collin Cook graduated from UB and attended UC Berkeley for his Master’s degree in Structural Engineering. He is currently working as a bridge inspector in WNY. He and his wife, Becky, have two sons – Finnegan, 5 and Keeghan, 2. Finnegan is also in kindergarten at Park. Collin and his family reside in East Aurora, NY.


1997 – Julia Baum Gilbert is working for Creative Associates International, Inc. in Washington DC.

1975 – Leslie Bunis Ohl, Holly Cranz, Wendy Caldwell Maloney, and Lynne Rodenberg Gollifher, all Class of 1975, at the Blue Monk in Buffalo.
2000 – Elton Matthew Hartney James married Ashley James in June 2006 and took her last name. Currently, he is living and working in Los Angeles as a set lighting technician in Hollywood for movies, television, and commercials as a member of IATSE Local 728. Erin Gabriella Birmingham debuted her bridal collection, ONB2, October 3, 2013, when she headlined Fashion Week Brooklyn as an eco-friendly/sustainable bridal designer. She received local and national publicity at Bushwickdaily.com and was featured in a video interview with MYSPACE.com. Melanie Galler married Dave Matte on May 19, 2013. They are living in Boca Raton, FL, where Melanie is a preschool teacher for children with exceptional needs. Lucy Holloway Doren was born September 17, 2013 to Emily Constantine Doren and Jesse Doren.

2001 – Elizabeth Baun married Philip Joseph Sterchele on October 12, 2013 in St. Josephs, MI. Kevin Eng has relocated to Buffalo and is working at Roswell Park Cancer Institute as Assistant Professor of Oncology focusing on ovarian cancer which is the number one source of mortality in women’s cancers. “I’ve been interested in this area because I’m surprised that we’ve made very little progress over the last 30 years. So far, I’ve gotten a grant to study how to use genomics to predict which chemotherapies are working. If we’re successful, we will make a major step toward more personalized treatment. I have a joint appointment at UB in biostatistics. I’m using a very wide range of skills and expertise (mathematics/statistics, genetics, oncology, ovarian cancer, ethics, also now immunology). I imagine only Park students would be up to the challenge of learning and using all of those fields.”

2002 – Adam Kozinn and wife Melissa welcomed their second child, Emma Paige Kozinn, on May 28, 2013. Emma joins big sister Hailey. The family has relocated to Dallas where Adam is a senior HR Business Partner with Amazon.com. Reports Adam: “We recently announced we are entering the Texas market to build customer fulfillment centers. I will be leading our Dallas Fulfillment Center from an HR standpoint.”

2003 – Chris Berardi married Christie Witt on May 18, 2013 in Buffalo. Chris is an associate at Lippes Mathias Freedman Wexler LLP law firm.

2004 – Pamela Oles Hull and husband Daniel welcomed their second child, Walter James, on April 23, 2013. Julia Burke relocated to Madison, WI where she is a freelance writer. She has been published in The Progressive, Isthmus, and others, and works. She also works part time at a small Wisconsin vineyard.

2005 – Ellie Bibas is teaching 7th grade history at Ethical Culture Fieldston School in New York City.

2006 – Emma Schmitt began work on her master’s degree in Textile Conservation at the University of Glasgow (Scotland) in September 2012. She interned during summer 2013 at The Cleveland Museum of Art in Ohio and at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford in the United Kingdom.

2008 – Ned Eskew is at the University of Connecticut in a doctoral program in structural engineering. Jud Heusser is heard every day on WKSE-98.5 as the afternoon DJ at the station he first worked at as a high school intern. He was recently named to Buffalo Business First’s 2013 Class of 30 Under 30 honorees. Abhinav Nangia was also honored as a young leader with his inclusion in Boston.com’s The Hive/25 Under 25 for his leadership in founding and growing reweave, an international organization dedicated to building sustainability in community-based businesses that in turn strengthens their communities. Selection was based on achievement, potential, impact, leadership, and innovation.

ATTENTION NEWLYWEDS AND NEW PARENTS!

We are always pleased to hear about new family news among Park alumni and friends.

Do you have a wedding, birth, or adoption announcement you would like to share with us? We’d love to spread the word about your family news.

Email your announcements and photos to alumni@theparkschool.org.
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.