

Founded in 1875, Park University is today an independent, private, comprehensive institution, accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities. Park University is proud of its long history as it reflects the university's commitment to work, educational ethics, diversity, and internationalization. Park University, originally called Park College, built its history with the labor of its diverse student body, which at its beginning was composed of white, Native Americans and African Americans. Committed to diversity, Park University opened its doors to its first international student in 1880. Keeping with this history, 128 years later, Park University compiled a ten-year strategic plan document which provides a road map for the future of the University. Park University highlights the importance of internationalization in its mission and vision statements.

Park University is home to more than 700 international students and 16 international faculty, and boasts five U.S. Fulbright scholars in the last five years. Additionally, NAFSA selected Park University for two Cooperative Grants (COOP): the Global Changes Program in 2001 and Global Future: Bridge between Students and International Business Community in 2004. The American Council on Education (ACE) selected Park University twice for its Internationalization Laboratory from 2004-2008, and Park was awarded ACE mini-grants in 2006 and 2007 for internationalization projects on service-learning and science.

The traditional Parkville, Missouri, campus is not the only location for Park's internationalization. The university works with students and faculty from its 41 campus centers in 21 states and from its Online courses to encourage internationalization of curriculum and study abroad. Several of the Parkville campus international clubs also have branches at Parkville campus centers, including Model United Nations and Model Organization of American States. Faculty from campus centers are members of the variety of international committees and boards that help guide the university's internationalization.

Guided by recommendations from the American Council on Education's internationalization assessment, Park University established a system of departments and international education committees, illustrated below, that work together to establish and maintain Park University's comprehensive internationalization goals.



I. The Office of International Affairs (OIAE):

A. International Student Services:

International Student Services (ISS):

Since the first international student landed at Park College in 1880, Park has continued to be a great metropolis of international students, growing to over 700 and comprising over 30% of Parkville's student body. This rich, international student presence affects every aspect of a Park student's education from student-student interaction in the classroom, to faculty/staff-student interaction and social and extra-curricular activities. ISS offers full services to international students from admission to graduation including social and cultural programming, which allow the international students, American students, faculty, staff and community members to interact with each other while experiencing the local culture, local festivities, or international presentations and performances. ISS is a resource for the campus and community, organizing our students as Cultural Representatives for various speaking engagements. ISS sponsors the following programs:

1. World Student Union: the largest social club on campus with a membership of 650 and sponsor to monthly social and service activities;

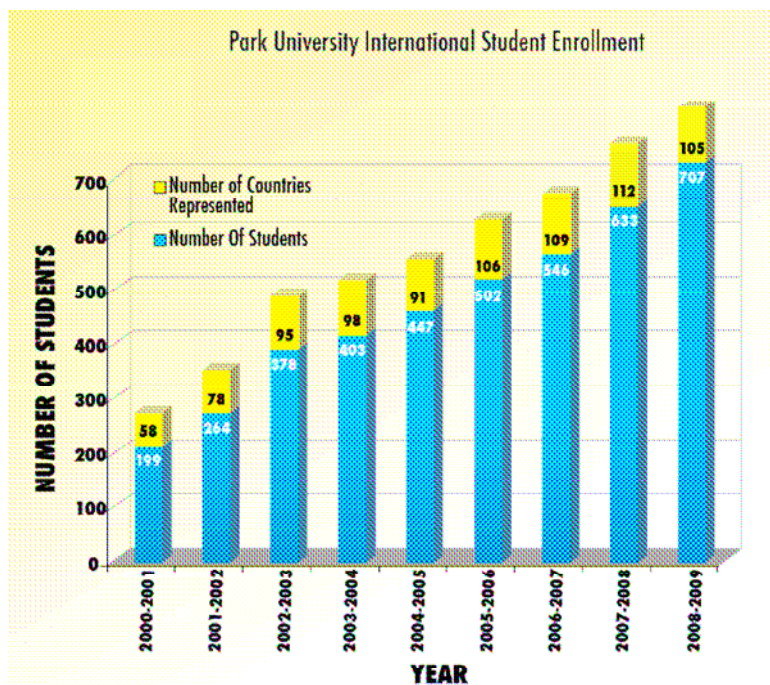
2. The Milele Kenyan Club: formed by Kenyan students to advance international friendship and understanding and promote the concepts of a global community.

3. International Friendship Partners: offers friendship between all incoming international students and local community members;

4. International Education Week and the International Dinner and Program, hosting 500 faculty, staff, students and community members annually;

5. Global Match: a mentoring program between faculty/staff and international students, which paired 50 incoming international students with 50 volunteer mentors

6. “The Culture Hour: a casual forum for student questions, concerns and insights” which meets weekly for discussion.



Latest accomplishments:

- In fall 2008, International Student Services welcomed the largest number of incoming F1 students ever (171), and also the largest number of incoming F1 students from one country (36 Mongolians).
- Also during fall 2008, Park hosted the largest number of international students in its dorms in the university’s history (over 40% of housing).

B. Office of International Education

The Office of International Education, charged by the President and Provost with directing the internationalization of the university, has five main areas of emphasis:

1. Internationalization of Curriculum:

At Park University, internationalization of the curriculum means not only adding more internationally-themed courses and programs, but also infusing international principles and themes into every course the university offers. The main goal of internalization of curriculum is to continue Park's commitment to internationalization of the curriculum and faculty development activities. This includes offering more internationally-themed majors and minors, integrating international courses into graduation requirements.

2. International Student and Faculty Exchange

Park University faculty development funds support faculty exchanges and research overseas. Faculty members are encouraged to report on their experiences during faculty conferences, faculty meetings, and brown bag lunches on campus. In 2005, Park University launched the Visiting Global Scholars program, which has brought professors from Greece, Italy and China to the Parkville campus.

Over the past four years, the OIAE has created solid partnerships and signed MOUs with foreign institutions to facilitate faculty and students exchanges. The OIAE has partnerships with higher education institutions in Brazil, China, Denmark, Greece, Taiwan and Russia. In Russia, Park is developing dual-degree MA and MBA programs with the St. Petersburg University of Finance and Economics (FINEC).

3. Study Abroad:

Park offers a variety of study abroad programs to its diverse student body on all 42 campuses. As most of Park's students are non-traditional, the university has selected its study abroad offerings to best fit those students' needs. In 2005, Park premiered a multi-disciplinary biannual service-learning program to Brazil. This 10-day program is held over spring and fall breaks and gives Park students a short but intense introduction to another country's culture and people. The program's popularity has even helped Park recruit new students from the Kansas City area.

Park offers study abroad in Denmark, Greece and Mexico through direct partnerships with institutions in those countries and other countries through the College Consortium for International Studies (CCIS). Student exchange options also exist in Taiwan and Russia.

The office offers assistance to students applying for nationally competitive study abroad funding. In the last three years, Park has supported applicants for the Fulbright U.S.

Student Program, Boren Scholarship, Freeman-Asia Scholarship, Gilman Award and DAAD awards. Park had its first Freeman-Asia and DAAD winners in 2006.

4. Community Outreach:

Park University encourages cooperation between American and international students, faculty, staff and community organizations through its international extracurricular programs. These programs include:

a. Global Future: Bridge between Students and International Business Community

This program is a collaboration with the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce's World Trade Center. Founded in 2002, the program provides an understanding of international business and international leadership skills through presentations by local international business leaders, local university faculty and networking opportunities for students. More than 150 students from 26 countries and ten universities/colleges have participated in the 60-plus sessions.

b. Coming to America Series

Twice a semester, international students from one of four world regions (Africa, Asia, Americas, Europe) present the culture and history of their home countries to university faculty, staff and students, with an average audience of 35 people per session.

c. International Classroom Partnership

In cooperation between Park University, North Kansas City School District and International Relations Council, international students speak to local gifted elementary students, parents and teachers about their home countries. In six years, Park students have made more than 400 visits to 13 different elementary schools.

d. Cultural Sharing

Cultural Sharing is an annual three-hour theater-style show depicting the culture of one country. Students from the selected country are responsible for training other students, faculty, and staff to perform in the event. The local ethnic community connected to the selected country also participates. Past presentations have focused on Pakistan, Brazil, Kenya and Nepal. Since 2004, 120 Park University students, staff, and faculty have participated in Cultural Sharing. Total audience for the four presentations exceeded 1,000 Park University faculty, students, and staff and community members.

e. Model United Nations (MUN) Club

In Model United Nations, students learn about how the world's nations act together to solve global problems and reduce suffering around the world. The original Park MUN club was established in 1973 and ran through 1999. The club was reestablished in 2003.

Since 2001, more than 255 Park University students from 113 countries have participated in nationally competitive conferences in Chicago, New York and St. Louis.

The Club also holds an annual conference for area high school Model UN teams on its Parkville campus. In the last five years, Park University has annually organized Model United Nations conferences with more than 700 total high school participants. The simulations were conducted by 78 students from 50 countries.

In fall 2007, Park University created a scholarship to support students who seek internships with the United Nations headquarters. The first winner of this award interned in the UN Human Resources department in October 2007.

II. The International Center for Civic Engagement

In 2005, Park established the International Center for Civic Engagement to advance the university's global mission, establish linkages across international efforts on campus, and provide innovative educational opportunities for students, faculty and staff. The center's goal is to serve the common good by graduating leaders who exercise authority responsibly, make ethical decisions, act with moral courage, and advance human dignity worldwide. Throughout each academic year, the center hosts informational lectures and discussions on a variety of topics ranging from international relations to interfaith dialogue. The center connects Park with a global audience by publishing the International Civic Engagement blog, featuring the latest civic engagement news from throughout the world. The center received a significant honor in its selection by the United Nations as the first academic institution worldwide to join the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN).

III. The Internationalization and Multicultural Education Committee

Since the inception of its strategic plan, Park University has been concentrating on comprehensive campus internationalization. One important outcome of the strategic planning process was the creation of an Internationalization Task Force, which became the current university-wide Internationalization and Multicultural Education Committee including faculty, staff and students.

Highlights of the current committee work include:

- Participation in two ACE Internationalization Collaborative Laboratory cohorts
- In fall 2008, offering an intercultural training program led by internationally-renowned communications expert, Dr. Cal Downs.
- Global Match: a mentoring program for faculty/staff and international students, first implemented in fall 2008.

IV. Faculty Senate Committee for Internationalizing the Curriculum

The committee serves as a clearing house of resources to augment current curriculum with international topics. Committee members have developed and manage a cycle of

international areas emphasis so that faculty may introduce a consistent international theme within their current course materials.

In order to achieve consistency in the incorporation of an international emphasis at all levels, the committee has indentified eight regions of global emphasis which are highlighted during a specific academic term in an eight semester cycle. Each of these sectors is championed by a committee member who develops and supports resource materials so that instructors have the ability to introduce international issues into their curriculum. Committee members represent campus centers and several campus units.

V. International Center for Music

The International Center for Music at Park University has been established to foster the exchange of master teacher/performers, renowned young musicians, and programs from countries across the globe. The education of emerging musicians is at the philosophical core of the Center's mission and the quality of that training crucial to great artistry.

The Center's faculty includes such world-renowned musicians as Stanislav Ioudenitch, 2001 Van Cliburn gold medalist, from Uzbekistan; Martin Storey, former principal cellist with the London Symphony Orchestra, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, from Great Britain, and Lithuanian-Israeli violinist Ben Sayevich, who served as the Concertmaster of the Kansas City Camerata and the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, among other significant accomplishments.