



HONORS CONVOCATION

*Graham Tyler Memorial Chapel
April 22, 2026*

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PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, S.553

Steven McDonald, D.M.A.
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Prelude on the Hymn Tune Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Prelude and Fugue in G Minor, S.558

Bach

“Air” from Water Music

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

WELCOME

Camille Cook, M.L.S.
Assistant Professor of Library Instruction and Outreach

PROCESSIONAL*

Prelude on the Te Deum

Dr. McDonald
Marc-Antoine Charpentier
(1643-1704)

MUSICAL SELECTION

The Star-Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key
Performed by International Center of Music String Quartet

MARSHAL

Matthew Harris, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science

FACULTY MARSHAL

Brant Winn, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education

INTRODUCTIONS

Emily Sallee, Ph.D.
Acting Provost

OUTSTANDING HONORS STUDENTS

Monica Brannon, Ph.D.
Assistant Provost for Academic Success

FACULTY AWARDS

Dr. Sallee

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL AWARDS

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Gayle Copeland, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Education and Health Professions

Brant Winn, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, College of Education and Health Professions

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

James F. Pasley, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

HAUPTMANN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Debra Sheffer, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT

Adrian James, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, College of Management

GREETINGS FROM PSGA PRESIDENT

Waylon Wright
Park Student Government Association President

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Molly Pierson
Dean of Students

CLOSING

Dr. Sallee

RECESSIONAL*

Choral Song in C Major

Dr. McDonald
Samuel Sebastian Wesley
(1810-1876)

*** Please Stand**

Live Stream Feed: parkumedia.com

2025-2026

SELECTION OF OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

Cumulative grade point average of 3.9 or above, degree seeking, full-time student with 30 or more Park University hours.

Ackah, Nana Ama Achaa

Adu Osei, Doreen

Albani, Silvia

Alokoa, Ryan Gustav

Arnone, Brynn

Baek, Nakhoon

Bah, Mouctar

Barringer, Kaya

Bauer, Porsche Y.

Benavides, Anna S.

Bennett, Sayeed A.

Blankenship, Katelyn L.

Boguske, Aubrey

Briceno, Evelyn

Bridges, A'Nya Simone

Brittine, Melissa L.

Brooks, Isabella M.

Brunner, Nolan Austin

Bugal, Alexandria Kathleen

Burchfield, Christopher J.

Cantwell, Alicia K E

Castro, Marcus A.

Cervantes, Issac Santos

Cordill, Grace E.

Davis, Krystal

Delk, Chloe Grace

Distasio, Nina

Dureka, Ashlee Caliel

English, Olivia A.

Farr, Traci A.

Funke, Rachel L.

Gadashev, Maxim

Gerry, Adele A.

Gloe, Dana Victoria

Green Ledgister, Samantha

Hafner, Anna

Hansen, Colby Glen

Hanson, Nicholas

Hartmann, Halle E.

Hicks, Brent T.

Hinteregger, Konstantinos Nikola

Hodges, Nia Chikara

Hornung, Rori M.

Hudson, Regan M.

Hughson, Brody T.

Hunt, Karson Joshua

Jalilpour, Ainaz

Johns, Paul

Johnson, Ashlee E.

Johnson, Evan

Johnson, Terri J.

Jones, Nadia Frances

Kim, Sierra

King, Aaron Renard

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS, *Continued*

King, Christopher A.

King, Payden R.

Klamm, Faith M.

Klamm, Hope M.

Knight, Electra N.

Kuhlman, Peyton R.

Lam, Willoughby

Lane, Sophia M.

Llanos, James A.

Lowe, Delaney F.

Lupia, Alexandra Grace

Madrid, Rubria K.

Mand, Hannah

Martins, Ana Luna

McMillin, Faith

Menzie, Connor S.

Milosevic, Vanya Mia

Mink, Alaina Elizabeth

Minter, Derica V.

Morimoto, Journey Lynn Kimie Kin

Nakhla, Mena

Nash, Joseph R.

Nash, Michelle M.

Nesbitt, Tyler

O'Hare, Makenna Kaleigh

Owen, Kaila K.

Paiz, Kaitlyn Serena

Partridge, Simon M.

Penshorn, Annalena

Perdiguero Martin, Marina

Petrovic, Ognjen

Pirtle, Noah J.

Porsch, Lilli

Quintana, Michaela L.

Randall, Marisa Claire

Reece, Rylee C.

Rinehart, Michael L.

Rodriguez Deras, Karla F.

Rodriguez Trinidad, Carlos Luis

Romano, Faith Therese

Schreck, Mary Kathryn

Scott, Alissa

Sipinga, Rebekah

Sisson, Jax Michael

Snell, Steve M.

Sole, Mallory Rane

Spornitz, Nora June

Steltz, Brandon

Suhl, Micaela Maria

Sutton, Madison Taylor

Sweeten, Kamryn Elizabeth

Taylor, Cole Ryan James

Taylor, Emmerson Sinclair

Tello, Juan

Tessman, Faith

Tripp, Adyson Mylin

Turner, Madeline G.

Uhler, Michael H.

Vaughn, Jace David

Waters, Laci Nicole

Watkins, Sadie A.

Woodhead, Emily E.

Wooten, Westley

Zeigler, Beckett

Zeigler, Piper M.

2025-2026

OUTSTANDING CAMPUS CENTER STUDENTS

A minimum grade point average of 3.5, junior or higher standing. Must be in good standing academically with the University and embodies Park University's core values.

Austin (Texas)

Doreen Adu Osei

Barstow (Calif.)

Rita Orozco

MCAS Beaufort (S.C.)

Erin Silverthorn

El Paso (Texas)

Lisset Aguirre

Carlos Roman

Fairchild AFB (Wash.)

Westley Wooten

F.E. Warren AFB (Wyo.)

Mike Curtis

Little Rock AFB (Ark.)

Emily Underwood

HONORS ACADEMY

The Honors Academy is a special program for high achieving undergraduate students and is open to all academic disciplines. Through special courses and learning opportunities, students explore academic excellence, service, and leadership. The Honors Academy seeks students who desire to learn not only for self-satisfaction, but also as a means through which they may contribute to their campus, city, national and global communities in support of Park University's and the Honor Academy's mission statements. Incoming first-year students, current students and transfer students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 can apply to join the Academy. Interested students can contact academic_affairs@park.edu.

Danielle Burg

Nina Distasio

Regan Hudson

Sophia Lane

Connor Menzie

Lynb Nguyen

Mallory Sole

Chloe Stachowski

NAVIGATOR'S BEST WRITING AWARD

This award is given to the author of the best piece of writing selected for publication in *The Navigator: A Journal of Excellent Student Writing Across the Disciplines*.

Pieces selected for publication, and the winner of this award, are chosen by Park faculty serving on the writing across the curriculum committee. The winner of the award has their piece published in *The Navigator* in print and online at thenav.org, and wins an Amazon gift certificate for books and writing supplies.

“Biophilic Design in Educational Spaces: Enhancing Well-Being and Socioemotional Development”

Jules Martinez

FACULTY AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

This award is given to recognize the full-time faculty member who exemplifies excellence in teaching. The recipient was nominated by a peer, student or staff.

Andrew Johnson, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology

PROVOST'S AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

This award is given to the adjunct faculty member who exemplifies excellence in teaching. The recipient was nominated by a peer, student or staff.

Jolayne Gorman

Adjunct Instructor of Social Work

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC ADVISING

This award is given to recognize faculty who have achieved excellence in providing Park University students with academic advising and mentoring. The award is intended to recognize outstanding contributions in helping students define and achieve their academic goals.

Kristen Whiteley

Associate Professor of Accounting

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY SCHOLAR AWARD

This award was established by Manuchair Ebadi, '60, Ph.D., in 1998 to honor Delta W. Gier, Ph.D., former chair of the Department of Chemistry who served Park from 1948 to 1990. The award pays tribute to a faculty member who shows evidence of commitment to high standards of excellence in the area of scholarship: teaching, discovery, integration and/or service. The recipient also shows effective and innovative connections between teaching and research, especially by undergraduate student involvement and participation. An inscribed name plate will be placed on the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award wall plaque, located in Mackay Hall, as permanent recognition of the faculty member and the honor.

Josh Mugg, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Philosophy

J.L. ZWINGLE AWARD

This award is given to an outstanding faculty member for the current academic year. Students of Park University are proud to pay tribute to an outstanding faculty member as voted by the student body.

Tamera Jenkins, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER SCHOLARSHIP FELLOWS

TLC's Faculty Scholarship Fellows program provide time and resources to pursue specialized projects related to scholarship. Fellows not only invest in their own development as teachers and scholars, but also contribute new knowledge to the Park community.

Tamera Jenkins, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Media Depictions of Offenders' Families

Courtney Rilinger, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Communication
Supporting & Teaching Contemporary Students

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

THE DOROTHY WATSON LITERACY AWARDS

Literacy for All

This award is given to the junior or senior teacher candidate who best exemplifies the guiding principles of the Dorothy Watson Literacy Center through their coursework, field experiences and service.

Karla Rodriguez Deras

Making a Difference

This award is given to the junior or senior teacher candidate who best exemplifies commitment to service through their coursework, field experiences and service.

Nora Spornitz

OUTSTANDING STUDENT TEACHER AWARDS

This award is given to a student whose performance as a student-teacher during the current academic year has been outstanding.

Art: Sofia McCroskie

Early Childhood Level: *Charity Shinabarger*

Elementary Level: *Chandler Spor*

Middle School Level: *Kylee Pinkerton*

Secondary Level: *Kamryn Sweeten*

DEPARTMENT HONORS

Education

Caroline Ray (Senior)

SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Nursing Ellen Finley Earhart Award

The student who exemplifies the ideals of Park University and who emulates the vision of Ellen Finley Earhart, the benefactor of the Nursing Program. Outstanding citizenship and dedication to the Park University community, committed to serving humanity as an RN, demonstrates adherence to the basic tenets of religious faith, including patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. Exceptional ability to relate to peers, Park University faculty, staff and public.

Chloe Stachowski

Nursing Scholastic Achievement Award

Presented to the student earning the highest combined GPA in nursing courses.

Regan Hudson

Sport And Exercise Science Service & Professional Development Award

This award is given to the student with an outstanding GPA and overall contribution to the major in and out of the classroom.

Leslie Hernandez Perez

DEPARTMENT HONORS

Sport and Exercise Science

Bryan Penrod (Senior)

Faith Tessman (Senior)

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

HAUPTMANN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

DEPARTMENT HONORS

Military History

Marcus Steele (Junior)

Michael Skalisius (Senior)

Psychology

Aeva Johnson (Junior)

Lynh Nguyen (Senior)

Sociology

Kristin Prosser (Junior)

Kaelie Neri (Senior)

POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT HONORS

Criminal Justice

Jonathan Valdez (Junior)

Hollee Eldred (Senior)

Isabelle Hirsch (Senior)

Chachi Martinez (Senior)

Joseph Sturm (Senior)

Political Science

Claudia Cordero-Esparza (Junior)

Tom Kuehnel (Senior)

Public Administration

Tyler Nesbitt (Junior)

Travis White (Senior)

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT HONORS

English and Interdisciplinary Studies

Kathryn Hunter (Junior)

Kaya Barringer (Senior)

Fine Art

Karen S. Rosner (Senior)

Graphic Design

Adele Gerry (Junior)

Lauren Buck (Senior)

Demarco Miller (Junior)

Jasmine Harmon (Senior)

Fatih McMillin (Senior)

Interior Design

Micaela Suhl (Junior)

Rori Hornung (Senior)

International Center for Music

Ainaz Jalilpour (Junior)

Aviv Daniel (Senior)

SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

NATURAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

CRC Press Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award

This award is presented in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement in chemistry during a student's freshman year at Park. The award includes a chemistry and physics handbook from the publisher.

Weston Flook

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) Excellence in Geography

Park University honors particular students whose scholarship, leadership and citizenship exemplify the tradition of Park University within the academic department. This honor is bestowed by the president, trustees and faculty of the university.

Electra Knight

Professor L.A. Robbins Memorial Award

This award is given to a student who has distinguished himself/herself in the natural sciences and in athletics.

William Doores

Harold G. McDaniel Award

This award is presented in memory of McDaniel, '58, professor of mathematics from 1961-78. It is given to honor outstanding students majoring in mathematics or natural science.

Jace Vaughn

DEPARTMENT HONORS

Biology

Rylee Reese (Junior)

Catherine Kerr (Senior)

Geography

Kristen Torres (Junior)

Christopher King (Senior)

Mathematics

Robny Hall (Junior)

Emmerson Taylor (Senior)

COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Park University Business Faculty Award

This award is given to the students who demonstrated exceptional leadership in the classroom and exceptional potential in the field of business.

Ashlee Dureka

Connor Menzie

Financial Executives Institute Award

This award is given to the students that stand out among all Finance majors in the College of Management to be a successful business leader in the financial global community.

Alissa Newby

Michael Uhler

CSIS: Outstanding Association for Computing Machinery Service Award

This award is co-sponsored by the ACM Club and the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. It is given to students for their leadership in organizing relevant activities for the club members.

Oscar Graham

DEPARTMENT HONORS

Accounting

Suzanne Perez (Junior)

Alissa Newby (Senior)

Computer Science and Information Systems

Juniper Gotchall (Junior)

Marina Perdiguero (Senior)

Finance

Simon Partridge (Senior)

Michael Uhler (Senior)

Healthcare

Doreen Adu Osei (Senior)

Aaron King (Senior)

Human Resources

Mocan Maricica (Junior)

Danielle Burg (Senior)

Management

Faith Klamm (Senior)

Bailey Turner (Senior)

Hope Klamm (Senior)

Marketing

Haylee Cox (Junior)

Danielle Knudsen (Senior)

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

LOUISA DAVIDSON HINDE/CAROLYN HINDE ZARKARYAN MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is given to students, faculty, staff and/or alumni who best represent the spirit of Park University by promoting in others that quality of excellence that has always been associated with a Park education. The awards are presented in memory of Louisa Davidson Hinde and Carolyn Hinde Zarkaryan, '56.

Suzanne Johnson
Admissions Counselor

Ana Luna Martins
Student

THE OUTSTANDING PARKITE AWARD

The Outstanding Parkite Award is given to two students on the University's Parkville Campus who best exemplify the ideals of the University in their character, conduct, scholarship and student activity participation. The awards are endowed by Dr. Elliot F. Parker in memory of his parents, Albert and Jessie Parker.

Ognjen Petrovic

Mallory Sole

DR. DORIS HOWELL LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2025-2026

C.W. Bailey Award	Jolie Conner Weston Flook
Cindy K. Anderson Senator of the Year	Jessica Roush
Dusing-Proudfoot Award	Jenna Pirok
Excellence in Academic Advising.....	Kristen Whiteley
Faculty Newcomer of the Year	Claire Reinert
J.L. Zwingle Award.....	Tamera Jenkins
Outstanding Class Member Award	
Sophomore	Mikiyah Howard
Sophomore	Maxine Toney
Junior	Isadora Dias
Junior	Lilli Porsch
Park Family Award	Camille Cook
Servant Leader of the Year	Rylee Reece
Student Employee OTY (GA)	Patience Dadzie
Student Employee OTY (work study)	Nicholas Mattivi
Student Organization Advisor of the Year.....	Janine Wilkins
Student Success and Impact.....	Catherine Geehan
New Student Organization of the Year Award	Gardening Club
Staff Newcomer of the Year	Bradford Peace

CEREMONIAL SYMBOLS



Presidential Medallion

There have been two presidential medallions in the history of Park University. The first, bestowed upon Acting President H. Melton Mohler by the student council in 1964, is a polished brass cross pattée with a sextant, representing the navigational mission of the president to guide the University, in the center. The insignia is surrounded by two red and yellow concentric circles and the words *Fides et Labor*, the University's motto. The presidential medallion of today, presented in April 2002 to President Beverley Byers-Pevitts, Ph.D., is made of gold-plated bronze, with the names and dates of tenure of each former president engraved on the links of the chain. The medallion symbolizes the president's responsibility for the welfare of the institution.

Ceremonial Mace

The ceremonial mace is among the oldest symbols of authority. Once used as weapons by royal bodyguards to protect kings, cities and parliaments eventually began using them, and the heads of medieval universities later followed suit. In academia today, the ceremonial mace has become one of the treasured symbols of office and is representative of the power of an institution. Park University's 42-inch ceremonial mace was commissioned by President Greg Gunderson, Ph.D., in 2017. In the center of the mace head is Park University's Mackay Hall clock tower and the school motto, *Fides et Labor*. The antique bronze, octagon-shaped platform that supports the mace head has a cherry wood upper disc and a lower disc made with limestone mined from Park University's Parkville Campus, serving as a representation of Park University's strong foundation.



