

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT DAVID L. PARKYN

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER TO LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY DONORS
SUMMER 2009 / VOLUME 11 / NUMBER 4

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THE DWELLING PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH

Late in the semester I returned in the early evening from an out-of-town trip and quickly drove from the airport to a concert venue. The North Park University choirs and orchestra were joining with their peers from Northeastern Illinois University in a performance of Johannes Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*. 110 vocalists, 55 instrumentalists, and two soloists. (Did I mention that the two soloists, soprano and baritone, are both graduate students at North Park?)

More tired than I wished to be, I slipped quietly into the seat reserved for me. Though personally weary I knew this would be a good night—a great piece of music performed by “my” students gathered on the stage in front of me. And it was there, in the musical majesty of the concert hall that I heard the refreshing, and ever-restful, words from Psalm 84, placed in the fourth movement of this magnificent work of art:

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints
For the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

Later that evening as I returned home, now refreshed in spirit if not in body, I turned to the rest of the psalm, which ends with this affirmation:

A day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
He bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the Lord withhold
from those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in You.

Each morning as I cross Foster Avenue on my way to work, I enter the dwelling place of the most high—North Park University in the heart of Chicago. Here, in this place, God bestows favor and honor and so our hearts and our flesh sing for joy.

PHYLLIS TICKLE COMMENTS ON NORTH PARK STUDENTS

Graduation is a grand time of year. There are smiles all around, on the faces of graduates, parents, and family friends, as well as faculty members. This year nearly 500 students completed degrees at North Park—undergraduate, graduate, and Seminary.

At the undergraduate commencement ceremony there was also a smile on the face of Phyllis Tickle. Many of you know her as a well-regarded author whose writings on the ancient tradition of the “divine hours” have transformed the practices of personal devotion and worship for evangelical Christians across America. In accepting my invitation to attend our spring commencement program and be awarded an honorary doctorate for her contributions, Ms. Tickle wrote me these words:

Few letters have ever so charmed and delighted me as has yours. First, and most obviously, I am deeply complimented by North Park’s intention to grant me an honorary degree in the spring. I cannot, in fact, imagine any university from which I would be prouder to receive such a degree than from North Park....

Some paragraphs later she continues:

My pleasure over the receipt of an honorary doctorate from North Park has to do in large part with my experience in having been on campus with your university family for the Zarley lectures two years ago. Long an admirer of Scot McKnight and his work, I was prepared to be impressed; but something far more than “impressed” was involved. Your students stayed on and on after the lectures, asking questions—good, sober, penetrating questions—as few clusters of students ever do. The whole atmosphere around them was one of great courtesy, but great spiritual, religious, and intellectual passion as well.

These words warmed my heart, and I imagine yours is now warmed as well.

HONORABLE MENTION

A number of our students and faculty members have achieved significant accomplishments over recent months. Especially noteworthy are the following:

- Riley Clark, a senior with a double major in Spanish and business, has been granted a Fulbright Award by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and the United States Department of State. The award is also sponsored by the Fulbright Garcia-Robles Commission in Mexico, and provides a grant to cover Riley’s full expenses for a yearlong professional business experience working and studying in that country. This is the second consecutive year that a graduating senior from North Park has received a Fulbright Award. Linda Parkyn also received an appointment as a Fulbright Senior Specialist and recently led a project in applied linguistics at the Universidad Nacional de Agricultura in Catacamas, Honduras.
- Kristy Odellius (English) has published a book of poems, *Strange Trades*, with Shearsman Books.

- Wes Lindahl (School of Business and Nonprofit Management) recently published a textbook on fundraising, *Principles of Fundraising: Theory and Practice*, with Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
- Soong-Chan Rah (Seminary) published *The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity*, with InterVarsity Press.
- Jim Bruckner (Seminary) was awarded a Lilly Theological Research Grant for 2009-2010. The award will provide summer research support for his continuing work on a book-length project “Human Health and Ancient Narrative: The Old Testament as a Shaping Resource for Health Care Vocations.”
- Through the efforts of Anne Jenner (Brandel Library) North Park has received a \$15,000 grant from the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation to digitize the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, a scholarly journal published by the Swedish-American Historical Society since 1950.
- The University’s Athletic Training Education Program has been reaccredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.
- In a variety of Chicago-based initiatives:
 - North Park residents hosted the Pritzker High School College Prep Leadership Conference entitled “The Leaders of Tomorrow Learning Today.”
 - 52 students participated in Chicago-based internships during the spring semester.
 - Community Service Day was held on Saturday, April 25, with collaboration from University Ministries, Student Development, and the Student Association.
 - The first meeting of the Chicagoland Council was held this semester. This group is comprised of volunteers who partner with the University president to advance the mission, identity, and place of North Park in the Chicago community. Several council members have already helped in a number of ways: with public relations initiatives, with contacts in the Korean-American Chamber of Commerce, with Chicago’s public radio station, and with the Chicago Economic Club, among others.
 - We launched our outdoor advertising campaign, which aims at cultivating institutional recognition in the Chicagoland area.
- We continue to receive exceptional financial support from the Kern Foundation for full-tuition scholarships in the Seminary. Seven new students have received these scholarships for the coming year, with potential for two more awards. Each covers full-tuition for three years leading to a master of divinity.

HISTORICAL RETROSPECTIVE

Pictures are worth a thousand memories, and with this in mind the University collaborated with Arcadia Publishers to prepare a volume for its Campus History Series. This 128-page paperback provides more than 200 photographs and brief chapter introductions covering the history of North Park University. The book was edited by alumnus John E. Peterson with support from Anne Jenner in the University archives. The book is available for purchase through the University bookstore and through bookstores and online vendors nationwide.

WILL YOU JOIN ME?

Every day I have the privilege to work with young people who will shape the world in the next generation. With this privilege comes a great responsibility and a great burden. The responsibility calls me, and all who work with me, to be faithful to the mission and vision of North Park. The burden is present because so many of our students struggle to cover the cost of a college education.

North Park charges a modest tuition. Yet, the cost of attending North Park still presses many students beyond their means. In addition, the present financial environment has created a special challenge for many students and their families.

With this student burden in mind, Linda and I gave a gift to North Park's annual fund in December as the tax year ended. Through this gift, a small number of our students received some additional financial assistance. And, because the need continues in such a great way, as the school year comes to an end Linda and I are giving an extra gift to support student scholarships at North Park.

My question for you, then, is quite simple: Will you join Linda and me with a gift of your own? The student financial need is great. As you have the ability, I invite you to make a gift for scholarships through the University Annual Fund. Use the enclosed envelop to return a check, call the North Park Development Office at (866) 366-8096, or visit the University website (www.northpark.edu/makeagift).

Each gift, yours and mine, will make a difference in a student's life.

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

The founders of North Park University chose to leave a mark, a word of advice, in the walls of Old Main. Intended for future generations of North Parkers, these words speak to me each morning as I walk into this building.

Chiseled into the concrete, in Swedish, are words from Psalm 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
All those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

May we discover God's wisdom and direction for North Park University this day and for every tomorrow.



David L. Parkyn
President, North Park University