

2015 PARK UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes Park University alumni who have distinguished themselves through career, service or community achievements.

JACK FOWLER, '54, OWNER, FOWLER REAL ESTATE, BOULDER, COLO | If you ask Jack Fowler about his tremendous success in the real estate business, he will tell you it's no big secret. "I've always put in a lot of hours and long, hard working days. But it didn't hurt me much."

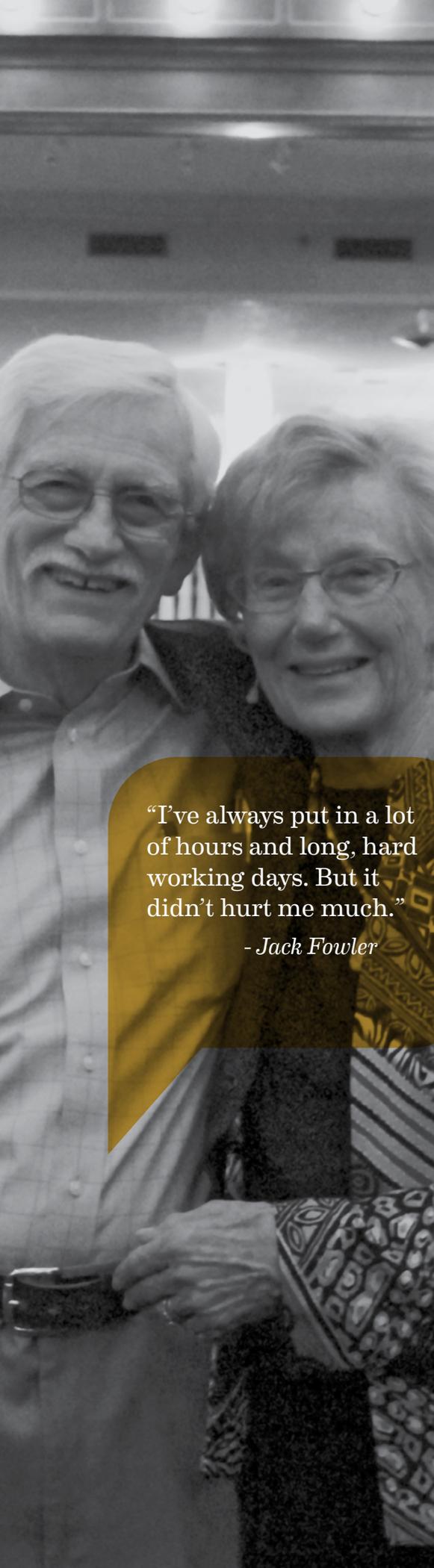
His strong work ethic has always guided him. Born and raised in Iowa, Fowler came to Park University in 1950 for the opportunity to work in exchange for his tuition as part of the work-study program. "I had the option to milk cows at 4 a.m. or work the equipment to pasteurize the milk. I chose the latter so I didn't have to get up so early." As a student, he also started a silo and concrete repair business in Parkville where he hired only Park students.

While greeting the incoming freshman class in 1951, Fowler helped carry the luggage for Barbara (Hays) Fowler, '55. "It was the custom to welcome new students at the campus entrance — and in my mind at the time, to look over the new crop. I knew right away that Barbara was the one," he said. Fowler married Barbara in 1953 and moved off campus while he finished school and managed his concrete business. Their first son, Tom, was born in 1954 and attended Jack's graduation. "He was just a squirmy little thing during the commencement ceremony," Fowler said.

With a degree in chemistry, Fowler decided to give working as a chemist "a whirl" at a small company. When his boss realized his construction abilities, he was assigned extra projects on the company's property. "That's when I decided to take advantage of my experience building things and get my real estate license," he said. In 1957, he moved to Colorado and opened Fowler Real Estate to develop single-family homes and condominiums in Boulder. As a leader in his industry, Fowler is the past president of the Boulder Area Realtor Association and past chair of the Colorado Realtors Legislative Committee. In 1974, he was recognized as the Colorado Realtor of the Year.

Fowler is highly regarded in the Boulder community, particular by his church. Next to the Pine Street Church is Pine Street Commons, a former school building built in 1968 under his leadership. The congregation warmly refers to it as "the house that Jack built." Today, Fowler volunteers to help the church renovate the building to house the Off Broadway Preschool of Fine Arts. Fowler is also contributing his time to help remodel the 100-year-old church, which has been buzzing with media attention recently for the 70,000 bees discovered in the church attic. "The bees were starting to come into the rooms — and we couldn't have that — so we were able to safely relocate the hives."

Among his four children, his three sons have followed in his successful real estate footsteps — two in Colorado and one in Alaska. At 83 years old, Fowler continues to put in long hours. "I have so many projects in the works that my days are still very full," he said. Fowler is fairly certain he's had a real estate license longer than anyone in Boulder — and may be the oldest realtor in town — but there's no doubt that he is still among the most successful and hardest working.



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