



**ROGER HERSHEY**

Walking the halls of Park University's residential halls or navigating the innovative underground space on the University's flagship campus in Parkville, Mo. is witness to the dedicated leadership of Roger Hershey, J.D., LL.M.

For two decades, Hershey served Park in both board and staff leadership roles. As a member of the Board of Trustees from 1995 to 2004, he led in various capacities, including as chair, vice chair and secretary. As a member of the University's staff from 2004 to 2016, Hershey served as Park's vice president and general counsel from 2004 to 2014, and then as vice president for entrepreneurial ventures until his retirement in January 2016.

Of his many leadership roles at Park, the University is especially grateful for his dedicated work to ensure the financing and construction of the Copley Quad residential hall and expansion of the Parkville Commercial Underground and Mabee Learning Center/Academic Underground.

His road to Park started with service in the U.S. Navy. After becoming a member of the Missouri Bar in 1970, Hershey served as a lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Before joining Park, Hershey practiced law in Butler and Independence, Mo., was an assistant vice president for estate and financial planning at UMB Bank, served as executive vice president of Asbury Land Title, and was president, founding shareholder and director of King Hershey PC, a Kansas City, Mo., real estate development law firm.

### **THE BIG PICTURE**

Personally concerned with "the increasing degradation of the natural systems of the planet," Hershey has long been devoted to conservation and environmental work, serving six years as trustee and interim executive director of the Sierra Club Foundation, and numerous leadership roles in the regional and national entities of

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The **TORCHLIGHTER AWARD** honors individuals who have made significant, longstanding contributions and commitments to Park University, whether alumni, faculty or friend. Recipients of this award who are not graduates are bestowed the honor of honorary alumnus.

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the organization. He has also served as a member of the board of directors of the Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, a nonprofit law firm.

Currently, Hershey is a board member for the L-A-D Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to the stewardship of natural land in Missouri, including a 143,000 acre selective-cut demonstration forest. He's also active in Indy Energy, a citizen-based educational organization focused on the operation of the electric utility owned by the City of Independence, Mo.

Hershey's dedication to Park was fueled by his unwavering belief in the value of a liberal arts education. "Much of what a student knows upon graduation will be superseded almost the next day by new knowledge, new technology and a changing planetary climate," he said. "The advantage of a liberal arts education is to see a big picture perspective. Park's focus on creative thinking and lifelong learning is essential for success in a new world of ever-accelerating knowledge and social change."

Ultimately, Hershey believes the pursuit of success is about more than professional accomplishments. "In this day and age, it's absolutely necessary to not only think about what's required for personal success, but to also think about the really big questions and problems facing the global population, and to actively participate in deciding what society ought to be doing to solve them."

