



PETER DESILVA



The Torchlighter Award honors individuals who have made significant, long-standing 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.

Not long after he arrived in Kansas City, Peter deSilva heard about a “great university on a hill.” He had relocated from the East Coast to the middle of the country where he didn’t really know anyone. It didn’t last long.

He remembers being warmly welcomed to both Kansas City and to Park University where he became a University trustee and one of the University’s biggest champions. “I was immediately enamored with Park’s mission — a mission devoted to access. Park strives to ensure everyone has the opportunity for a high quality, affordable education,” he said.

After more than 17 years as a senior executive for Fidelity Investments, deSilva joined UMB

Financial Corp. as president and chief operating officer in 2004. During his tenure, he helped reposition the Kansas City, Mo.-based company from a Midwest bank to a diversified financial services company

Making a difference through civic and charitable service has always been a priority. deSilva credits his parents for instilling in him a strong sense of giving back to the community. Fortunately for

-based learning and its focus on inclusion, Park is at the epicenter of positive change in American higher education.”

deSilva’s contributions to Park have been extraordinary. As a former member of Park’s Board of Trustees (2006-15), he served as board secretary (2013-14), vice chair of the Trusteeship Committee (2012-13), vice chair of the Advancement Committee (2012-13) and member of the Executive Committee (2009-14). He also has shared his professional insights as the keynote speaker for Park’s School of Business Dean’s Distinguished Lecture Series in 2003 and 2008.

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— a phenomenal achievement during one of the most turbulent economic periods in a generation.

GOING ALL IN

Professional success is only one facet of life for deSilva.

Park, it wasn’t long before deSilva’s passion for the great university on a hill took hold.

“Park resonated with me. The University understands education is no longer a moment in time; it’s a lifelong journey,” he said. “With its pioneering leadership in technology



“Follow your own path. There’s no prescribed route to success.”

It’s one thing to read a list of accomplishments; it’s another to comprehend the exceptional time and energy they require. deSilva doesn’t hesitate devoting himself to what matters. “You make the time for the things and the people you care about. It can mean a lot of long nights and weekends, but when you’re truly committed, you need to go all in.”

Beyond Park, deSilva’s philanthropic leadership extended throughout the metropolitan area, including:

- Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
- United Way of Greater Kansas City
- National World War I Museum and Memorial
- MRI Global
- Civic Council of Greater Kansas City
- Students in Free Enterprise
- YMCA of Greater Kansas City
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Kansas City
- Kansas City Symphony
- Rose Brooks Center
- Hope House

and many other charitable endeavors. While balancing corporate and community commitments, deSilva

enjoys spending time with his wife of 26 years, Michelle, and their daughters, Christine and Sarah, who share their father’s love of sailing and scuba diving.

route to success. Success looks different for everyone. It can be a business endeavor. It can be a community endeavor. It can be your family. Pursue success as you

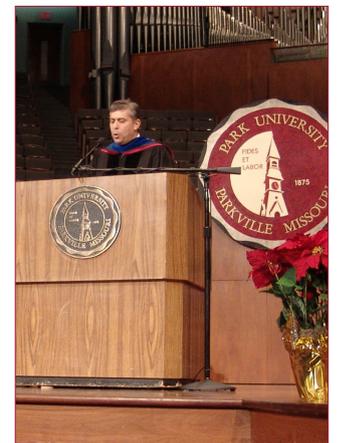
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FIND YOUR OWN PATH

Ready to take another company to new heights, deSilva recently moved to the St. Louis area where he is president of Scottrade Inc. and Scottrade Investment Management. But deSilva’s dedication to the University endures. He has generously agreed to serve as honorary chair for a fundraising campaign to build a new facility for Park’s School of Business on the flagship Parkville (Mo.) Campus.

define it. And remember, success is fleeting. Enjoy the moment and then reconsider: How can you give more? Always set the bar higher.”

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As a keynote speaker for two Kansas City Area Commencement ceremonies, deSilva especially enjoys celebrating Park graduates. As they strive to find their way, students and alumni find deSilva’s wisdom to be refreshingly encouraging: “Follow your own path. There’s no prescribed