

CHATTANOOGA STATE

DINNER OF FIRSTS

HONORING

Diane Parks



EVENT CHAIR, JULIE COOK ELSEA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 · THE CHATTANOOGAN

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Our Purpose

We support and empower everyone in our community to learn without limits.

Our Values

We cultivate an inclusive environment.

We care about the well-being of each other.

We instill trust through integrity and transparency.

We encourage fearless innovation and resilience.

We collaborate to build a better future

Our Mission

We are Chattanooga State, a dedicated team that delivers accessible, innovative learning opportunities that surpass expectations.

Together, we enrich the lives of students and their families; develop a talented workforce; and partner with our community to lead boldly into the future.

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CHATTANOOGA STATE DINNER OF FIRSTS

HONOREE

Diane Parks

The Program

- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Reception
- 7:00 p.m. Seating for Dinner
- Welcome Julie Elsea, Event Chair
- Invocation Ann Weeks
- 7:40 p.m. Master of Ceremonies. Jim Kennedy
- 7:45 p.m. Opening Toast Franklin Farrow, Morning Pointe
 Jay Dale, First Horizon
- 7:50 p.m. First in the Family. Dr. Rebecca Ashford
- 8:00 p.m. Roasters. Julie Baumgardner
 David Martin/Peterson Hostetler
 Marcus McKamey
 David Roddy
 Janie Varnell
- 8:35 p.m. Rebuttal. Diane Parks
- 8:50 p.m. Adjournment Julie Elsea

Proceeds of the event fund scholarships for first-generation students and are divided equally between the annual First in the Family Scholarship and the Tom Edd Wilson First in the Family Endowed Scholarship.



chattanoogaastate.edu/donate

Diane Parks

A native Chattanooga, Diane Parks has resided in the Brainerd area her whole life. Sister to Cindy and daughter of Earl and Martha Sertel, Diane has many fond childhood memories of growing up in Chattanooga alongside her sister and her nine cousins, who are still a big part of Diane's life today.

Diane's beloved father Earl, who worked in TVA's division of Transmission, Planning, and Engineering, died of a heart attack at the young age of 37 when Diane was just 9 years old. Unexpectedly becoming a single mother, Diane's mother began working in 1965 and raised Diane and Cindy on her own.

Diane attended Barger Elementary, Brainerd Junior High School, and Brainerd High School where she graduated in 1974. Because of family circumstances, Diane knew early on that she would not be able to attend a four-year college and was happy to have the opportunity to attend Chattanooga State, starting in the fall of 1974 and graduating with an Associate's Degree in Secretarial Science in 1977.

In her last year at Chattanooga State, Diane saw a job posting at the school for a receptionist at the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, and the rest, as they say, is history. She went on to spend more than 43 years at the Chamber, in roles ranging from communications and special events to public policy and member services. Diane held numerous positions of significant influence during her time at the Chamber, but she is often most remembered for the 21 years she spent in her role as Director of Leadership & Community Development, primarily overseeing the Leadership Chattanooga program. Through the program, Diane impacted the professional futures of hundreds of Chattanooga-area business leaders. Diane feels particularly fortunate to have witnessed and played a role in Chattanooga's Renaissance, and is so proud of the work so many people did to make Chattanooga what it is today.

Diane married her high school sweetheart Steve Parks in 1977. Steve worked for the Chattanooga Police Department for 28 years and served as the Chief of Police from 2003-2006. The two have one daughter, Janie Varnell, who is an attorney with Davis & Hoss. Janie and her husband Adam have two dogs — Diane and Steve's granddogs — Toby and Scout.

Although she is retired, Diane stays busy by volunteering in numerous capacities through a variety of civic organizations, as well as her neighborhood association. Steve and Diane are longtime members of Brainerd Methodist Church, where Diane serves as Chair of the Altar Guild and on several committees. When she's not busy with a volunteer project, Diane enjoys gardening, spending time with her beloved dog Yancy, and relaxing with a glass of wine with whoever happens to join her on the deck.



Favorite Quote

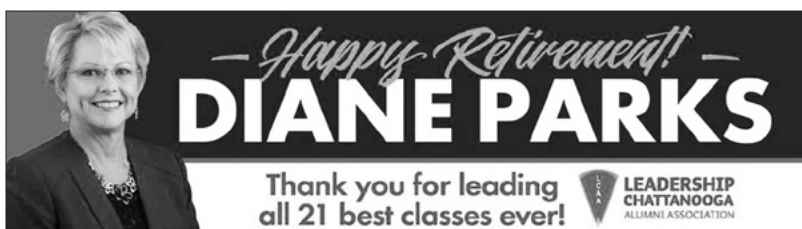
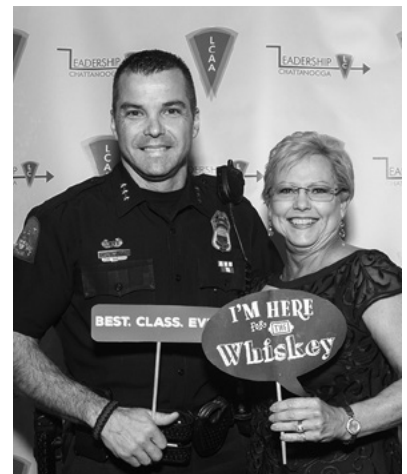
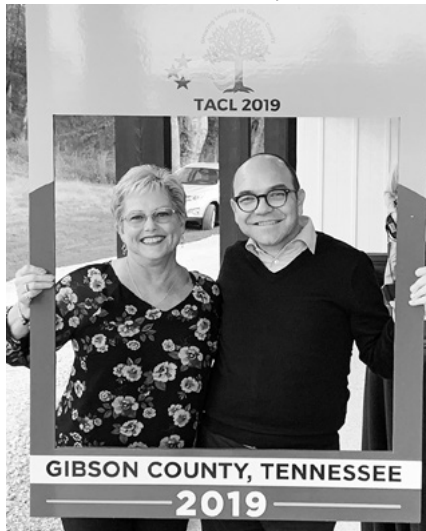
"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader."

—Dolly Parton

Family



Leadership Chattanooga



Friends & Community







Cheers
to
Diane Parks
and all the
First in the Family Scholars

We wish you all continued success!

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Event Chair

JULIE ELSEA feels most successful when working with clients and their families to plan for the future. From college planning for children or grandchildren to retirement planning and long-term care insurance. As a partner with the Round Table Advisors of Raymond James team, she possesses over 33 years of experience working with each facet of wealth management, including life and long term care insurance. Julie's integrity and reliability help her build long lasting relationships centered around trust with clients. Offering "second opinions" and financial checkups is just one of the services Julie offers to new clients who may be looking for a financial advisor. Educating investors, especially female clients, is a passion of Julie's. She feels everyone should have the opportunity to be confident as they make financial decisions for themselves and their families.

Julie joined Round Table Advisors in 1998 as a client service associate after spending eight years as a member of the team at J.C. Bradford & Company. She started her career in financial services as part time data entry while a student at Chattanooga State. Since that time, Julie has worked several positions including sales assistant for many years and has worked hard to advance herself to the position of partner with the Round Table Advisors' team. She holds her Series 7, 63, 66 and insurance licenses. Being part of a strong team of financial professionals offers Julie the resources to ensure her clients receive the best possible service and care.

Julie has a full and active personal life away from the office. Giving back to the community and sharing her gifts and talents is a priority. She is a past president and current member of the Chattanooga State Alumni Association. She also serves as Chair of the Board for Chattanooga Women's Leadership Institute, where she was a graduate of the Women Mentoring Women class of 2017. Julie is proud to also serve on the Chattanooga State Foundation Board and is a member of Chattanooga Rotary.



Julie Elsea

Master of Ceremonies

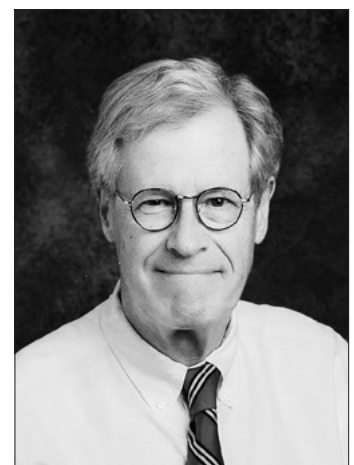
JAMES O. KENNEDY

A native of Rochester NY, Jim moved to Chattanooga following his graduation from Hamilton College to teach English and theater at the Baylor School. After three years in the classroom, he enjoyed a successful ten-year stint as creative director for Miller-Reid Advertising before becoming director of public relations for the RiverCity Company. He also served as president of the Chattanooga Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and as chief executive officer of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, where he had the pleasure of working with tonight's honoree.

In 2001 he formed Kennedy, Coulter, Rushing & Watson, specializing in strategic planning for communities and organizations across the state.

In 2011, Jim returned to Baylor as admission director before retiring in 2020. Since then, he has kept busy facilitating strategic plans for Orange Grove Center, the Downtown Chattanooga Alliance, and the Speech & Hearing Center, among others.

He is currently serves as board president for the Hamilton County Humane Educational Society. Jim and his wife, Barbara, have three grown boys, one wonderful daughter-in-law, and an indescribably awesome one-year-old grandson.



Jim Kennedy

Roasters

JULIE BAUMGARDNER is the Senior Director of WinShape Marriage which is part of the WinShape Foundation started by the founder of Chick-fil-A, Truett Cathy.

In her role at WinShape Julie works with an energetic talented team on an incredibly beautiful retreat campus to build experiences, retreats, content and resources that support every stage and season of marriage.

Prior to taking on this role, Julie was part of the First Things First leadership team for 23 years, serving 19 of those years as the president and CEO.

Julie and her husband, Jay, have been married since 1989. They are the proud parents of a daughter, Ashley who is married to Keith. In her free time, Julie enjoys gardening, horseback riding, cooking, working with children, mentoring couples and baking.



Julie Baumgardner

E. PETERSON HOSTETLER

A McCallie Alum who graduated from Rollins College in 2006, Peterson moved to Martha's Vineyard and began working with Walter Cronkite's Maritime Foundation. In addition, he started his own Marine Consulting business and earned his USCG Captain's license. After leaving the foundation, he worked as a Strategic Business Consultant in the distribution industry where he assisted FedEx and UPS with their needs.

Peterson began his career in the financial services industry in 2011 when he began working with Morgan Stanley, specializing in Fixed Income & Cash Management. In 2017, after 6 successful years with Morgan Stanley, he was recruited to UBS. Where is a partner of the Vantage Point Financial Team

Peterson is very generous with his time and serves the community on various non-profit boards. He currently serves on the boards of the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and the Boys and Girls Club. He is also the Treasurer of the Downtown Chattanooga Rotary and on the McCallie School Alumni council. In 2016, he was named as one of Chattanooga's Top 20 under 40.



Peterson Hostetler

DAVID MARTIN and his wife, Natalie, co-founded Heed PR in 2018. A graduate of Leadership Chattanooga (2013), he has been Diane's neighbor for over a decade. His dog, Junior, is Yancy's best friend, and the Parks' back deck is one of the Martin family's favorite places to pass the time (especially when Steve is grilling).



David Martin

MARCUS MCKAMEY is an SVP and Director of Retail Banking for FirstBank, headquartered in Nashville TN.

An Avid supporter of the Arts, Marcus has served on boards for TPAC, Chattanooga Ballet, and most recently was the Chair for ArtsBuild. A 2006 Graduate of Leadership Chattanooga, and Alumni Board Member, Marcus understands the importance of Leadership and Community Connection.

Marcus's time serving on the board for Leadership Chattanooga Alumni Association and working closely with Diane Parks, was a pivotal moment for him and an honor.

Marcus now spends his time between Nashville and Chattanooga, he, and his family, with their 5 fur babies live on Lookout Mountain.



Marcus McKamey

DAVID RODDY Police Chief David Roddy retired with 26 years of service with the Chattanooga Police Department. David is a native Chattanooga and after graduating from Tyner High School he went on to obtain his Bachelor's of Science at Middle Tennessee State University. Chief Roddy then returned to his hometown to begin his career as a police officer.

During his time at the Chattanooga Police Department he served as Acting Chief, Chief of Staff, Captain- Internal Affairs Division Commander, Captain- Uniformed Services Patrol Sector 3 and Captain/Lieutenant- Special Operations Division Commander/ SWAT Commander. He served in patrol, narcotics and gang investigations as well as serving more than 14 years on the department's SWAT Team. These experiences as a leader have helped to provide a broad base of departmental expertise.



David Roddy

Chief Roddy was instrumental in the implementation of the Enhancement Law Enforcement Response to Victims (ELERV) Grant awarded to CPD in October, 2015. Because of his work with the ELERV Grant and his tremendous support of victims, Chief Roddy was nominated to join the IACP's Victim Services Committee in the Spring of 2017. In the Spring of 2018, Chief Roddy was nominated to serve on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Crime Gun Intelligence Governing Board. This national board oversees and advises on the collection, management, and analysis of crime gun evidence for the purpose of identifying shooters, disrupting criminal activity, and preventing future violence in Chattanooga and other communities across the United States. Chief Roddy is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy Session 235 and the National Executive Institute Session XLI.

Throughout his law enforcement career, Chief Roddy worked to support kids in the community who could benefit from assistance outside their immediate family structure. Chief Roddy accomplished this through the Chattanooga YCAP program, serving as a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Chattanooga, becoming a big brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bigs in Blue program and creating the opportunity for other CPD Officers to do the same. Chief Roddy also implemented the Handle with Care program in which CPD Officers work with school administrators and teachers to support kids who may be impacted by violence or trauma. Chief Roddy is also a certified Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) trainer. In that role he trains others how to effectively address the issue of the adverse impact of childhood trauma on our youth, and later in life, on adults.

Chief Roddy (ret.) is currently the Chief Operating Officer for Hamilton County TN government, Senior Director of Safety and Risk Management for USAToday Ventures and co-host of The Crime Cast podcast.

Chief David Roddy and his wife Shannon have been married for more than 25 years. They have two daughters.

JANIE PARKS VARNELL is a native Chattanooga and is the daughter of, you guessed it, Diane and Steve Parks. Janie was raised by two amazing leaders who have solidified their legacies in Chattanooga. It is her honor to celebrate her Mom tonight and every night.

Janie is an attorney at Davis & Hoss, P.C. and handles criminal defense, employment litigation, and represents local police officers through the Fraternal Order of Police and the Police Benevolent Association. Janie is passionate about working in a career that helps people in all aspects of life.

Janie is currently serving as President Elect of the Leadership Chattanooga Alumni Association and is a graduate of the Leadership Chattanooga Class of 2015 (best class EVER). She is a Board member of the Chattanooga Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division, Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and is a Faculty Member at TACDL's Trial College and Advanced Trial College.

In her spare time, Janie is professional photographer who learned to love photography from her Mom and Dad. Janie owns a small photography company, Janie Beth Photography, and likes to fill her schedule with anything from family photos to senior photos to pet photos.

Janie lives in Hixson with her husband, Adam, and their two dogs (Diane's Granddogs), Toby and Scout.



Janie Parks Varnell

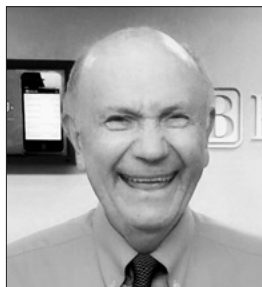


What really goes on in **FUN**draising?

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The Chattanooga State Foundation was chartered in 1977 by citizens interested in the educational well-being of Chattanooga State's students, faculty and staff. In addition to providing 586 deserving students \$1,102,810 in scholarships over the past two years, the Foundation supports professional development, excellence in teaching and special capital projects to help the college fulfill its mission.

The Chattanooga State Foundation is a nonprofit organization and maintains a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The Foundation is supported by private donations and contributions, tax-deductible as allowed by law.

For information about the Chattanooga State Foundation, please contact the Advancement Office at 423.697.2630 or visit chattanoogaestate.edu/give.



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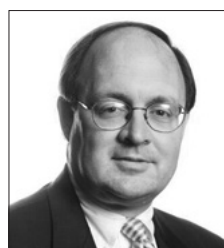
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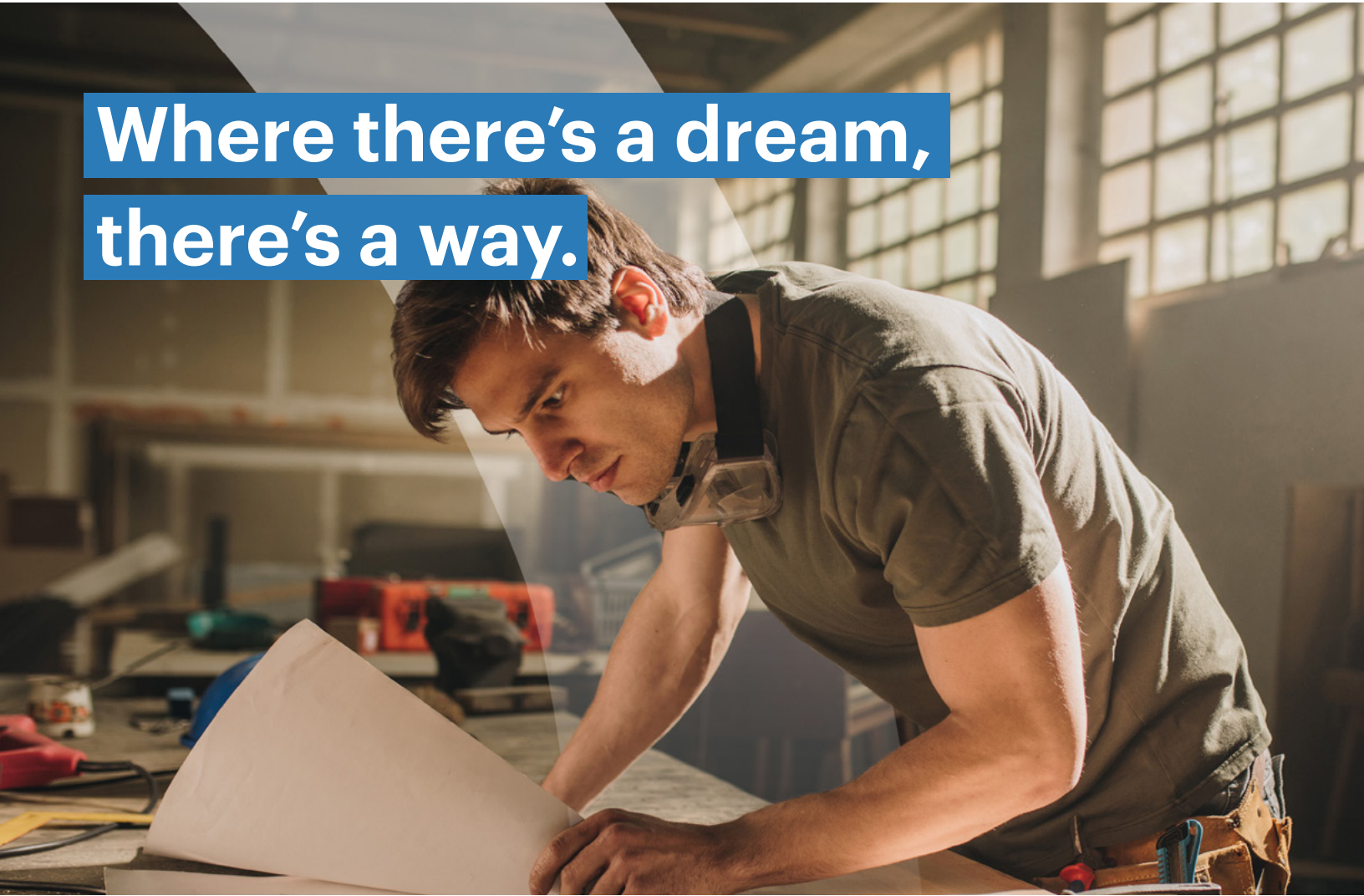
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