

Colleges and universities are shaped by the care of members of its community -- none more important than its lifelong caretakers, its alumni. From matriculation to commencement, alumni are educational institution's torchbearers. Beaver College and Arcadia University lead and inspire others in working toward a valued goal or vision. To that end, Arcadia has matured into the institution we are, led by the alumni who love, serve, attend events, volunteer, work, and give -- all to ensure a vibrant legacy that persists for current and future students we may never meet.

Philanthropy plays an outsized role in the wellbeing of Arcadia University. Sally Lou Brubaker Steer '41 still holds the record for the largest gift from an alumna in the University's nearly 170-year history. It was her transformative gift that led to the naming of Brubaker Hall, the campus building which houses the School of Global Business and Public Health, Physical Therapy, and Medical Science. Her gift is a tangible display of the power of philanthropy and its ability to make significant, important change for institutions.

Though I was not yet here when Sally Lou made her decision to give to Arcadia University, I would like to think that she would have been a good friend. I always say that I have the best job because I get to see the very best in people. Through Sally Lou's gift we can also see that the University's future depends on what each person decides to do in the present. As I think of all that has been accomplished through the radical kindness and sacrificial generosity of our donors -- alumni, friends, staff, parents, students and faculty -- Arcadia is strengthened by the grace in action each donor demonstrates.

An old Greek proverb shares that society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit. Translated for Arcadia, our university grows even more great when our alumni and friends make substantive gifts for the benefit of students whose steps will cross paths with the shadow of our own steps.

Brigette A. Bryant