



# Parsons College E-News

Volume 9, No. 1

Spring - 2016

## Springtime spawns memories of America's #1 pastime..BASEBALL!

### **PARSONS COLLEGE BASEBALL – ONE OF THE TOP COLLEGIATE PROGRAMS OF THE 1960'S WITH A .814 WINNING PERCENTAGE OVER SEVEN SEASONS**

Parsons College in the 1960's was well known for its top academics, social life and athletic programs. This spring, we're highlighting the baseball teams that carried a winning banner throughout the Midwest and the nation. The seven seasons between 1964 and 1970 the Wildcat team won 233 games and lost only 53 games for a .814 winning average. During those years they also sent a number of players off to Major League Baseball including pitchers, Rich Folkers, Charlie Williams, Dick Mills and Jim Todd, to name a few.

### ***The Coaches who made it happen!!!***



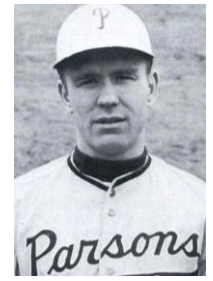
*Coach Joe Lutz got the program rolling in 1964*



*Coach Hall, 1966*



*Coach Banks, 1966-69*



*Coach Blixt, 1970-73*

Dr. Millard G. Roberts vision for national recognition extended beyond the academic halls of campus. He was determined to send a message to future students that Parsons College was a well-rounded institution. He made that very clear when his athletic department extended an invitation to Coach Joe Lutz in the fall of 1964 to take over and develop a top notch varsity baseball program. Lutz was born on February 18, 1925, in [Keokuk, Iowa](#) and was a high school baseball standout. He signed a professional contract with the [St. Louis Browns](#) in 1941. Joe played for minor league teams in the Browns organization and advanced to their AAA level in 1951 prior to being traded to the Brooklyn Dodgers organization.

Following his professional playing career, Lutz coached high school baseball, football and basketball in [Argyle, Iowa](#) and [Davenport, Iowa](#), where he led Davenport to a state championship. In his first year as head coach of the Wildcats they posted a 21-9 record.

After a successful year of building a winning program at Parsons, Lutz became head coach of the [Southern Illinois University](#) baseball team where he led the Salukis to the [1968 College World Series](#). They lost a fiercely competitive final game 4-3 to the [University of Southern California Trojans](#), after finishing the regular season with a 34-12 record. Lutz was selected as the National Coach of the Year in 1968 by the American Association of College Coaches. The following season, Lutz led the #1 nationally ranked Salukis to a 36-7 regular season record and another trip to the [College World Series](#).

Having played in the major leagues for [Bill Veeck](#), Lutz adopted some of his notorious circus fanfare, including female batgirls, giveaway contests for fans and skydivers landing on the pitching mound. Through the 1969 season, Lutz had coached his team to a 149-48-2 record in four seasons as coach at SIU.

The [Cleveland Indians](#) named Lutz as their first-base coach in 1971, after he had been coordinator of its minor league teams. He was on the team's coaching staff in 1972 and 1973.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Baseball – cont'd)*

Following Joe Lutz to the head coaching position the fall of 1965 to coach the 1966 season was **Jim Hall**.

**Duane Banks** came to Parsons and was the head baseball coach from 1966-1969, as well as an assistant football coach. Banks was All-League at Northern Colorado and went to the [1960 College World Series](#); he also played basketball there for a year. He was 0 for 4 for the [SRL Braves](#) in his only game as a pro. He was head coach at Parsons College from 1966-1969. His 1968 season boasted a 31-2 record and the 1968 season had a 58-3 won-loss record, with the only three losses coming to the hands of a triple A farm club from Mexico, Missouri.

He was head coach of the [University of Iowa](#) from 1970-1997, going 810-575-4. He took the school to the [1972 College World Series](#), their first and only appearance in a [College World Series](#). He set school records for wins in a season (44 in 1981) and career. He was the head coach at Iowa for future major league mainstays, Jim Sunberg, Mike Boddicker and Cal Eldred. Banks also managed [Team USA](#) in the [1985 Intercontinental Cup](#), when they finished a disappointing 2-5 despite players like Jeff King, Kevin Brown, Jack McDowell and Matt Williams. Banks also was president of the [American Baseball Coaches Association](#) and is in the ABCA Hall of Fame. He later was a volunteer assistant coach at Mesa State College. When Banks retired as head coach of the University of Iowa, the home varsity field was named in his honor.

**Larry Blixt** was a collegiate player for both the football and baseball teams at Parsons College. He graduated from Galesburg High School and played both varsity sports his entire four years at Parsons, graduating in 1966. He then was drafted by the Baltimore organization but returned to Parsons to assist Banks in his last season at Parsons. Blixt was the final baseball coach at Parsons, serving the 1970-1973 seasons.

*(Editor's Note: Dave Neff compiled and wrote this article from information gathered from a number of sources, including Wikipedia and Peira yearbooks, 1965-70. He has also put together a baseball display case for all to view at the Parsons Alumni Hall in the FA&CC).*

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## *Speaking of Baseball..... Did you order your PC Jacket yet?*

With the freezing weather OUT, and the warmer spring temperatures IN, what better time to order your Parsons College lightweight zip front jacket than now. You're not going to find this treasured piece of Parsons memorabilia at Sports Authority, Dick's or any other sporting goods store. It's embroidered in Fairfield and is available only through your Parsons E-Newsletter by calling 1-800-247-3383, or email: [www.fairfieldlineinc.com](http://www.fairfieldlineinc.com). The jacket is made by Russell Athletic Wear, comes in sizes S-3XXX and costs \$50.99 plus S/H. Order yours now!!!

## Etch your name in Parsons College History!



## Buy A Brick!

Help support our mission to preserve the memory of Parsons College – **BUY A BRICK!**  
For details and information call Dave Neff at 641-919-4640 or email at [neffaces@lisco.com](mailto:neffaces@lisco.com)

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## ***Bring it on!! No More E-News Deadlines***

# Statue of Lee T. Gobble to be erected on the lawn at the FA&CC!!!



“Lee T. Gobble, Mr. Fairfield” will grace the front lawn of the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center and forever glance at the Courthouse Steeple he succeeded in replacing. Most everyone attending Parson's College knew Lee, who passed away at 100 years old in April 2015. There are countless stories about Lee, his family clothier establishment since 1853, his unique style & quirkiness, his generosity, and love of Fairfield and Parsons.

The figure of Lee will reflect his personality and some of his favorite silly traits – he will be clothed in dress pants, a shirt with unbuttoned collar, topped with a Parsons College sweater, and sports jacket (Left: artist's rendering) If you knew Lee in the 1960s and 70s, you'll understand the old style phone in his pocket. There will be GGG turkey designs, a bow tie, U of I considerations, and of course a Hershey's kiss in hand.

There is so much to say about Lee Gobble, that an added feature will be the colorful “fan of Lee's tie collection” spread at the base like outstretched turkey feathers, depicting more Parsons stories and Fairfield history.

“We are excited to announce that Christopher Bennett, the same artist we brought to town in the late 1970s to create “William Coop & Friend” for the Fairfield square, and in 1986 “Leapfrog” for the Carnegie Building lawn, has been commissioned to do another bronze figure sculpture that will be placed in front of the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. The project will involve another native artist, Ken Rowe in modeling parts of the figure, and collaboration with Mark Shafer on historical details and design.”

Parson's Alumni are especially invited to help us remember Lee Gobble, with this life size bronze figure, which will be placed near the entrance to Parsons Alumni Hall at the FA&CC. The amount of \$36,500 remains to be raised, after the FAA contributes its \$16,000 saved for a public art project. Further funds will be secured by applying for a public art grant, donations, memorials, and fundraising events. Donations are invited from anyone that appreciates art, and the memory of Lee Gobble.

All donors and memorial gifts to this project will be recognized on an appropriate plaque. The FAA is a 501C3 non-profit and donations are tax deductible. Contributions to “Lee Gobble Sculpture” can be sent to:

**Contributions to “Lee Gobble Sculpture” can be sent to:  
Fairfield Art Association, C/O Suzan Bates Kessel, 200 North Main, Fairfield, IA 52556  
OR left at FAA Studio, or Fairfield Arts & Convention Center**

NAME AS TO BE LISTED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIPT REQUESTED \_\_\_\_\_

## TREE'S CORNER... with Dr. Bob Tree

What's going on in Fairfield?? Yesterday (February 21, 2016) the Fairfield Art Association celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The association has had a very successful half century. I am one of the founders so I attended and enjoyed some delicious cake along with many others. The reception was held in the Sondheim Center and there was a very good turnout...



We've been having a fine winter season at the Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts, with art shows and active theatre. Just this past March, the Fairfield Concert Association sponsored a program of the *International String Trio*—violin, guitar and bass. They are from the Boston area and are on the road touring much of the year. Excellent musicians and lively personalities. The violinist said he came from Poland originally. I expressed surprise, commenting that he sounded as though he came from Chicago. He seemed to enjoy my little joke, knowing that Chicago is one of the largest

Polish cities in the world. It was not quite a full house, but still a large audience and the program was enjoyed by all. I can't say quite the same for the presentation of *Dueling Pianos* which was a bar act and to many of us it was a big bore. However, much of the audience seemed to really enjoy their show, which is usually the case with the shows at the Sondheim. You can't win them all, but the batting average of "good shows" is pretty darn good.

And it is wonderful having the Sondheim Center and these shows right here in town. Really, the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center with the Sondheim is one of the best things to have happened to Fairfield in many years. We have really good theatre right here on Main Street and it attracts a lot of people from out of town. It is very, very good for the community... Received a communiqué from **Mike James, PC'mid-60's**, recently. He graduated from Parsons and went onto grad school, went into teaching and is now retired. My how time flies!! Take care!! Tree...

*(Editor's Note: We are delighted to have Dr. Tree contribute his thoughts and observations regarding Fairfield and Parsons College to the PCAumni Enews at any time and in any way, shape, or form. THANK YOU, DR. TREE.)*

### Parsons Alumni Association Board of Directors

President: Nancy Wirtanen [nwirtanen@yahoo.com](mailto:nwirtanen@yahoo.com)

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Kay McPherson Ferguson [KFerg2@cox.net](mailto:KFerg2@cox.net)

***"You can STRETCH your years by STRETCHING!!"***

*65'nWise*

# Lost your Parsons College Yearbook? Contact our Peira yearbook exchange to explore buying, selling or trading

We're trying to help you out. **Ed Longanecker** has set up a Parsons College Peira Yearbook Exchange. Although Ed reports activity is very slow, the inventory of yearbooks continues to build, and for the time being, he will continue to offer his services in receiving yearbooks and doing his best to satisfy specific yearbook requests. We believe there are many yearbooks and lots of Parsons memorabilia of little or no value to many families hiding in attics/basements across the country, yet they're being discarded. To those who have lost or never purchased a yearbook they are a valuable item.



So you are invited to contact Mr. Longanecker and he will be of assistance. He will welcome receipt of those unwanted Peiras and he will even pay the shipping. Yes, that's right, Ed will pay the shipping! There are opportunities to share, exchange and/or trade yearbooks. And this isn't just limited to yearbooks. Ed will take your Parsons plates, cups, saucers, mugs, mortarboards, etc. You don't need to wait for spring to clean out the attic/basement of your Parsons yearbooks and memorabilia...do it now!! **Any contributions would be directed to foundation and alumni activities.** Here is the contact information: **Ed Longanecker, 211 W. Washington, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641; email: emlong2@iowatelecom.net...**

*Yes we have yearbooks. We have yearbooks dating back to the 1920's and 30's and 40's. A continuous stream of donations, plus a bulk donation by PC Alum Dick Thomas has built our inventory significantly.*

**Next Issue - SUMMER - 2016**

**News Deadline: NO DEADLINE**

*Your news and photographs are needed.  
Please submit as a jpg and provide information  
about the photo.*

*If you need help contact Nancy Wirtanen  
[nwirtanen@yahoo.com](mailto:nwirtanen@yahoo.com)*

Getting a new email address? Receiving multiple issues? If so, please notify Nancy of address change and any duplication.

**WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS AN ISSUE!!**

# Preservation of Carnegie Historical Museum moving forward

Here is the latest on the Carnegie Historical Museum project as reported by **Dr. Kay Ferguson**. First of all, lets re-clarify why this project is important to our Parsons College alums. The remaining history, memorabilia and artifacts of the college are displayed, stored and housed on the 3rd floor of the Carnegie. Aside from the PC Wall of Honor and several case and wall displays on exhibit at the PC Alumni Hall located in the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center, this is the one and only remaining home of Parsons memorabilia. If this building were to not survive, it is quite likely the history of Parsons would end up in a dumpster somewhere in rural Iowa. Yes, the history of Fairfield, Jefferson County, along with Civil War, Loudon and other items are also prominently displayed. But this is the last outpost for preserving Parsons College.

We are so thankful Dr. Ferguson, PC'58, has stepped up and dedicated her time and energies toward preserving this landmark. To date, she has requested 200 RFPs (grant assistance) from foundations that fund museums. Twenty-five letters have been returned with address changes, 52 responded that the Carnegie needs did not match their mission and 10 foundations sent an RFP. We were pleased with the 10 responses that expressed interest. The mainstream grant proposal has been written and she is adjusting it to match the goal and mission of each of those 10 foundations. The last of the proposals was to have been mailed by April 15, 2016. There are 1,972 foundations that fund museums. Dr. Ferguson has been relentless in seeking out those foundations, hoping for a good match to the Carnegie needs.



*Carnegie Historical Museum (CHM)*

CHM Director **Mark Shafer** has suggested we continue the focus on restoring and preserving the Civil War Collection as a priority to attract premium attention and interest. A year ago, Dr. Ferguson wrote a proposal to a foundation in Iowa requesting \$25,000. We received \$2,500. She will again request funds this year from that same foundation after consultation and response from the CHM Board of Directors. If you wish to help out and make a donation, the preservation of the Carnegie Historical Museum and our Parsons College Collection is our number one priority. **Please contact Dr. Ferguson at: [kferg2@cox.net](mailto:kferg2@cox.net) for more information...**

**Other CHM News:** The Winona Historical Museum, which has been a standard bearer in the operation of historical museums, has opened its doors for several CHM enthusiasts to attend a one-half day orientation session in the near future... We are also pushing for a free worker from the Federal Program, **Experience Works**, to work at the Carnegie 18 hours per week. This program will pay a retired, low income worker minimum wage. After a demonstration of Past Perfect software at Winona, we intend to implement the program and train a person to digitize, measure and catalog documents and artifacts housed in the Carnegie. Next we would begin the tedious inventory process, which we anticipate will take several years. A free worker has also been approved for this task and with board approval we'll move forward... The University of Iowa has offered to send a graduate student to Fairfield to assist with the training, and the project has been offered as an internship. Local foundation, corporate and/or business support would be needed to launch this project. And lastly, we are contemplating a search to find local high school students to engage in the program as a community project and to receive credit... Stay tuned!!

## ***Parsons College Alumni Website***

***Check out our FREE 3-DAY trial viewing of the Parsons College Alumni Association website at:***  
***[www.parsonscollegealumni.com](http://www.parsonscollegealumni.com)***

**It's a WINNER!!**

# Parsons Alumni Hall display cases feature events from the 1960's

When **Dr. Millard G. Roberts** arrived as president of the college, Parsons College began its major growth from 377 students in 1955-1956 school year to a peak of 5,500 students in the fall of 1966. During this time there was a continuing emphasis on organizations and Greek Letter Societies. Dr. Roberts intended to bring a broad base of education to the Parsons College student body and he felt that the Greek Letter Societies were flourishing at the larger colleges and universities and this would be the next natural step in his growth plans for Parsons College.

There were twelve National Fraternities and three National Sororities on campus. The Independent organizations were also flourishing. Seasonal "Theme Parties" were hosted by the fraternities, sororities and independent organizations. The entire campus was always a buzz with Homecoming, Christmas, and as the weather warmed, Spring Fling, Greek Week and Derby Day. The school administration brought in the top bands and entertainment of the day. Motorcycles and sports cars were a major part of campus life.

National Fraternities - Alpha Chi Rho, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Delta Chi, Alpha Epsilon Phi, Lambda Chi Alpha, Pi Kappa Alpha, Phi Sigma Delta, Phi Sigma Epsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Theta Chi, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and Sigma Pi.

National Sororities - Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Xi Delta and Delta Zeta.

Independent Organizations - Green Acres, Rum and Chowder Society, Town and Country Tappers, S O S, Troops and Where The Boys Are (WTBA) and others too numerous to name.

The Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council represented the fraternities and sororities and worked directly with the administration to assist in the implementation of student activities, including concerts and campus celebrations. They were very successful as some of the top entertainers of that era would make the Parsons College Campus a stop on their mid-western tours.

There is a current display in the Parsons College Alumni Hall located at the south end of the Fairfield Arts and Convention Center showing photos and some of the major events of the 1960's.

*(Editor's Note: Dave Neff is responsible for compiling the information and writing this story.)*



*At one time 15 Greek organizations dotted the campus*



*WTBA... Arguably the #1 Independent Social Organization*

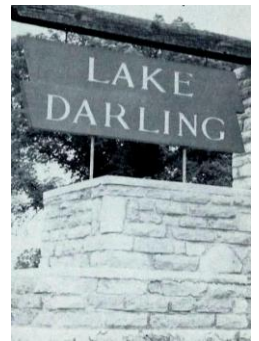
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## PCAA Random Survey Seeking Your Opinion

*Your PCAA board wants to know what you think. Over the next several weeks a random selection of alumni will be receiving a 10 question survey. If you receive the survey you will be asked to answer the questions and return it via the instructions. Several reminders to those who do not respond will follow. We expect to close the process within 2-3 weeks from the initial mailing. Most of the questions will relate to reunions, future gatherings, locations, timing and the Wall of Honor. Your collective opinions will be evaluated and will serve as the basis for the future planning of these events. We will follow-up in the Summer ENews with a report as to our findings. Again, the alumni who receive the questionnaire were randomly selected from the alumni registry by the computer. We ask for your cooperation and participation...*



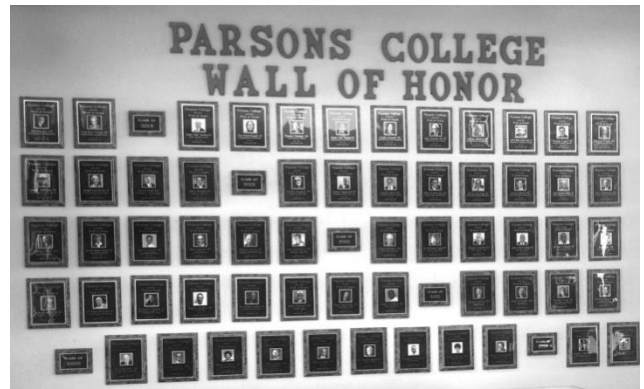
**SPRINGTIME**  
at  
**PARSONS COLLEGE**





**A MESSAGE TO LAURA CROSSETT:** When someone blind sides you and takes a low blow shot at something, or someone, you hold dear to heart, you're first inclination is to strike back, to retaliate, to blast away. Such was the reaction of a number of Parsons Alumni and friends at the release of your October 28, 2015 *Des Moines Register* article entitled: "*Parsons College: A Cautionary Tale for UI.*" We found your opinionated attempt at comparing Parsons College and **Dr. Millard Roberts**, from a small town school that has been closed for nearly 45 years, to the mighty University of Iowa, and its' newly appointed president, to be distasteful, tainted, slanted and vindictive.

And furthermore, we find it shameful that you found it necessary to reach under the table to pull out an obscure *LIFE Magazine* article from 1966 in an attempt to enhance your message. What that article had to do with Dr. Roberts and **Bruce Herreld** (University of Iowa president) possessing business backgrounds, and lacking of in-depth packages of educational credentials, is a far reach from reality and makes us wonder. In addition to presenting a warning of doom and gloom, were there other motives? Then we find out that **Dr. John Crossett**, who taught briefly at Parsons, is your father. We also remember that Dr. Crossett was one of several disgruntled professors who disagreed with the philosophy and operating procedures of President Roberts.



*Anyone needing reassurance that a Parsons College education was one of the finest in the land, and taught by top-notch professors, need only travel to the Parsons College Alumni Hall in the FA&CC in Fairfield. Many of Parsons top achievers have been hoisted to the Wall of Honor. Yet this is merely a sampling, as there aren't enough walls in the City of Fairfield to house the incredible number of success stories of our Parsons College grads!!*

Perhaps Dr. Crossett was not ready for the forthcoming changes in education that were being pioneered at Parsons. Perhaps he should not have accepted the position in the first place. He, along with the other dissidents were either fired or resigned.

None of these pieces fit together as a warning sign to the University of Iowa. I doubt Mr. Herreld, or the University, are shuttering in their boots at your writing. Having said that, other than the unsubstantiated and negatively bias information you've received related to Parsons College and its history, it appears you know little, or nothing, about our college. Yet, you're painting a very blurry and misleading picture? If this is your means of gaining retribution for your father and his ill-fated experience at Parsons, we feel sorry for you. It's a shame YOU didn't know Parsons College, how great the education was, and how great it could have been had it endured. We invite you to explore the 98 years of the college's history. We invite you to talk to any of the overwhelming numbers of proud and successful Parsons graduates to find out what Parsons was really like. And we invite you to visit the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center and the Parsons Alumni Hall at 200 N. Main Street in Fairfield, IA, to view a massive sampling of the educational products Parsons College manufactured and prepared through graduation. Yes, Ms. Crossett, take a long hard look at the Parsons College Wall of Honor, read the profiles, and find out what a Parsons education was really all about!!!

# Alumni respond to the negative comments on Parsons

*(Editor's Note: The following letter was written to Ms. Amalie Nash, Vice President & Executive Editor of the Des Moines Register by our Doug Marion, PC'70. Ms. Nash's reply follows the Marion letter.)*

**Dear Ms. Nash:** My name is Doug Marion. I'm 71 and was born in Des Moines. For 40 years I have been an Automotive Industry "Photo-Journalist/Editor/Vice President/Editorial Director" amongst other titles. I am writing to you simply as a fellow "journalist" to make you aware of complaints on a recently published story written by Laura Crossett, which has upset many of your *Des Moines Register* readers. The subject story was about the supposed current financial ills of the University of Iowa. Parsons College was mentioned negatively in the story. Your author, Ms. Crossett, was the daughter of a onetime professor at Parsons. The author's father, Dr. John Crossett and several others became dissidents to the operating procedures of President Millard G. Roberts. Dr. Crossett was then "hung in effigy" by the students. Supposedly, this was the beginning of the demise of Parsons. Ms Crossett also called Parsons "Flunk Out U," as referenced from a 1966 *LIFE Magazine* story depicting Parsons as a small college which admitted those who flunked out of other colleges. Furthermore, Ms Crossett stated that "Parsons professors were ordered to give higher grades than deserved to students." This is absolutely absurd! And what did that statement have to do with the gist of her story...the ills of the University of Iowa?? No professor ever gave me or anyone I knew higher grades. It is my opinion the author added a lot of negatives about Parsons that did not parallel in any way the alleged current woes of UI. Perhaps Dr. Roberts may have been responsible for the demise of Parsons, but it wasn't because he gave students a second chance at succeeding. There are scores and scores of students from Iowa, and all over the USA, who got their second chance at Parsons and went on to establish tremendous professional careers and have great families. Feel free to contact me...

**Doug Marion, PC'70** – [dougmarion@aol.com](mailto:dougmarion@aol.com)

**Doug:** Thanks for writing to share your experiences at Parsons and express your concerns about **Laura Crossett's** piece in the Register. What she wrote was not a story – it was an op-ed column on the Opinion pages. The author is offering her opinion and wrote that she is sharing it, given **Bruce Harreld's** hiring and the fact that Parsons also chose a non-academic president. She does note that Parsons was well-known for giving second chances, and it sounds like many people benefitted from that. Certainly you are free to disagree with the author's opinion, and you're also welcome to submit a letter to the editor with your perspective on the matter. I've cc'd your comments to **Lynn Hicks**, our Opinion Editor. Appreciate you reading the Register.

**Amalie Nash** - [anash@registermedia.com](mailto:anash@registermedia.com)

**Carl Dye, PC'62** - [asaceu@hotmail.com](mailto:asaceu@hotmail.com) writes... Again, I want to thank you for including me on the "list" to get the E-News. This issue got my "ire" up after reading about the daughter of Dr. Crossett. I have spent the day going through the Federal Court documents which I obtained from the Federal District Court's archives several years ago (hundreds of pages of legal sized paper) concerning PC's loss of accreditation and the subsequent appeal of that loss. Too bad the (way too many and too lengthy) documents can't be included in your newsletter because they demonstrate, clearly, that NCA's decision to suspend Parsons accreditation in the mid-1960's was made long before the "annual meeting" in Chicago AND, it could be argued, went against their paid consultant's opinion, (who had been assigned to PC), and also a report that "fourteen (14) academicians" concluded that Parsons, the plaintiff, should retain its accreditation and only six (6) concluded that Parsons, the plaintiff, should be disaccredited. I know that I (we) are beating a too long, dead horse, but I think that it is important for Parsons alums to know at least part "of the rest of the story." Thanks again.

*(Editor's Note: Yes, information is very interesting, but definitely too much to print and review.)*

*(Continued on page 11)*

**Frank Baron, PC'71 - [ffbssb@aol.com](mailto:ffbssb@aol.com) writes...** Someone sent me a link a couple-three months ago to the *Des Moines Register* opinion by Laura Crossett stating that the University of Iowa has faced difficult financial times. It noted the PC experience (in the 1960's) as a parallel, NOT to be ostensibly traveled, in her article titled, "Parsons College: A cautionary tale for UI." I sadly recalled the end of Parsons while reading it. Now that I understand who she is, and part of where she seems to be coming from, the nature of the piece becomes a bit more understandable. That said, she mixed an awful lot of extrapolation into some basic facts, and sadly produced another negative part-truth speculative expiation of her own feelings, and bent the real story into a sad pretzel. I was recruited to Parsons on an academic scholarship and attended PC because it was the best combination of financial aid and distance from home and relatives. I had scholarships to public schools at Florida and Florida State, privates to UM and Florida Presbyterian, and partials to Columbia and New College (now part of USF), so I wasn't one of those Ms. Crossett seemed to be looking down her nose at. I also worked my way through school to earn spending money, and later, to help support my family.

I started out in Howard Dorm, and while we were indeed three to a room, it was room enough for my clothes and books, and more personal possessions (junk to the non-cognoscenti). Each of us had our own desk, and it wasn't as though we were squeezed to fit. I also spent a semester in the amusingly-designated "high rises" and my sister, who also attended Parsons after me, lived in the Quads, and found it just fine for a college living environment. As to any sorts of 'grade-fixing', I saw absolutely NONE of ANYTHING of the sort in ANY class I ever took or tutored. My experience, as I pursued a American Chemical Society approved Chemistry B.S., was one of scholarly rigor, as were the core courses we all had to take, as well as the electives we filled out our college education with. Furthermore, the three-tiered academic support structure of lead instructors, small-section assistants, and individual tutors worked. It was definitely a help for those "second chance" students who were continuing their educations after less successful starts elsewhere. Was it perfect? No, not at all, of course. But it wasn't the academic morass, nor even the social one, that Ms. Crossett would have us believe either.

Her father's firing may have been premature. I don't know how divisive a professor he may have been, nor whether Roberts overreacted in terminating the man because he dissented, but it seems that was the file that sharpened her axe. And when LIFE Magazine chose to emphasize - NO, CELEBRATE! - the party side of college life, and not give equal footing to the unique, progressive, DIFFERENT - and positive! - nature of Roberts' vision and approach, it stemmed the flow of students that reversed the college's growth. Then, the North Central Association withdrew its accreditation, less so for truly academic reasons, than for what I believe to this day were minor inefficiencies, some physical plant deficiencies and the financials of the school. These two actions spurred the end of Parsons, despite some staff, administration and civic efforts to keep the school alive. The rest, as the ubiquitous "they" say, is history. For Ms. Crossett to compare Parsons to the U of Iowa is ridiculous. Unfortunately, we - the Parsons Community - all get cut when such words are so wielded. To have it reviewed again in such negativity by Ms. Crossett does disservice to the school, it's fine teaching staff, and to those of us who knew PC for what it really was: a good, not great, but good, small, Midwestern, liberal arts school. That is now gone...

**Philip Como, PC'67 - [philipcomo@yahoo.com](mailto:philipcomo@yahoo.com) writes...** I appreciate the emotion of it (regarding Laura Crossett's article) and am frustrated still about the demise of Parsons, but Mr. Bob Gamrath, one of the Parsons Trustees, told me in 2010 that Dr. Roberts was largely an uncontrolled leader, who was definitely not a businessman. There was virtually no work on endowments. No measured growth, or concern for the "politics" of what was happening in Fairfield. I think my approach in reaction to this woman's writing would have been to remind her of the positives of dynamic leadership, and the great impact that Dr. Roberts had on the lives of so many, myself included, who needed a mulligan (second chance). But she definitely was off base in many respects, most notably, in the simplest fact that the University of Iowa's existence is protected by statute, no matter what person sits on the throne. I think that your passion here is most evident and I'm grateful for it...

(Continued on page 12)

**James Cornick, PC'64 - [jcornick@mchsi.com](mailto:jcornick@mchsi.com) writes...** I applaud your wonderful "Editor's Viewpoint" in the recent Parsons College newsletter. Living in Des Moines, I read that *Des Moines Register* opinion written by Ms. Crossett and had the exact same opinion you expressed so vividly. The whole hiring process of the new President of the University of Iowa has been a huge political scandal within itself. However, I did not make the connection between the Parsons Dr. Crossett and his daughter, Laura. Thank you for pointing that out and including the photo. Now, it is more obvious why she was throwing rocks at Parsons! I hope you share your opinion with the "*Des Moines Register*" regarding a possible conflict of interest by Ms. Crossett. There are (already) several responses defending Parsons and from those interested in the alumni reaction. Your viewpoint should be sent to the Register!! ... ADD: Your viewpoint pertaining to Dr. John M. Crossett fascinated me so much that I started digging into his background. He was born around 1923 in New York. and committed suicide in 1981 in Iowa City at the age of 58. As far as I can tell, he worked at Parsons for only a year, 1963. That was never mentioned in much of his background. Crossett worked at Grinnell College from '63-'70 and worked at Cornell College from '70-'81. He married his wife, Judith, in 1969, who was a graduate from Grinnell. Judith is still living and practicing psychiatry in Iowa City. It appears Crossett spent much of the rest of his life bashing Parsons College and many of his advisees, dissertations and manuscripts... PC bashings mostly, were donated to the State Historical Society in Iowa City in 1996. I have no memory of Dr. Crossett, but it was fun digging this stuff up. Laura Crossett, resides in Iowa City. She seems like an interesting character, but she is not employed by the *Des Moines Register*...

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## 4,300 rally against LIFE Magazine in support of Dr. Roberts

Slanderous attack by LIFE refuted

If there was ever a doubt of the love and support for Parsons and its leaders, flip back to an early June, 1966 evening and recant this amazing happening: Within hours after the June issue of LIFE Magazine hit the streets, an incredible and unprecedented wave of support converged on Fry-Thomas field house to protest the accusations and fallacies presented in the article. Both students and faculty were confused by the harsh and unjustified attack.



## *Bet you didn't know??* by John Braidwood

For years Dr. Roberts listed himself as having earned two degrees, an M.A. (Master of Arts) from Yale University in 1941, and a B.D. (Bachelor of Divinity) in 1942. Other times he listed only a bachelor's from Yale and shifted the masters degree from Yale to the University of Chicago. The fact is, our president did not hold a masters degree from Yale or the University of Chicago. He studied at Yale Divinity School from 1939 to 1941 but did not earn a B.D. degree, a M.A. or any other degree from those universities. He did however have a B.A. from Syracuse University in 1939, and a B.D. in 1942, and a PhD in 1947 from the University of Chicago. Such lapses in memory might suggest that perhaps Dr. Roberts was experiencing a certain degree of early dementia...at his own discretion...

\*\*\*\*\*

In most of the leading private colleges, tuition and fees for room and board produced 40 to 50 percent of the school's general revenue. At Parsons, tuition, room and board fees produced and accounted for a whopping 90 percent of its' total revenue. This was achieved in large part by Dr. Roberts implementing increased tuitions and initiating low cost infrastructure development of housing and increased dormitory occupancy...



\*\*\*\*\*

Certainly one of the prominent aspects of the "Parsons College Plan" was the generous salaries and benefits offered to prospective professor candidates. Parsons began to accumulate some notoriety when salaries began to increase on par with Harvard, University of Chicago and other elite private schools. Not surprisingly this, amongst other components of the Parsons Plan, began to fuel jealousy toward Roberts from other colleges and universities, particularly those that were financially challenged and unable to afford and attract the best possible qualified professors. It didn't help that Dr. Roberts was also extremely boisterous in touting his hiring successes. When Roberts arrived at Parsons in 1955 the average faculty salary was about \$3,600 per year. When he departed it was about \$12,000 per year (approximately, \$87,000 in today's dollars). Roberts had the idea if you paid a qualified man twice as much as he was making, he would be twice as good. Most of us would agree that, given the quality of professors amassed over his tenure, Dr. Roberts did indeed achieve some extraordinary results...

\*\*\*\*\*

Almost from the beginning of Roberts' administration, Parsons found itself in defense of its open door policy regarding standards of admission. Up to the late 1940's, elite colleges such as the Ivy League schools instituted an open door policy, almost regardless of a candidate's prior academic performance. It had been said that many educators defended the open door policy, not merely because they had to follow such a policy to survive, but because they genuinely believed high grades were not necessarily related to an individual's later success in life. One of Parsons prominent trustees recalled that early in Roberts administration: "We made a survey of the trustees and found that 80% had been "C" students in college and high school and were now successful executives in business." Graduates of Parsons were no exception. The vast majority of graduates have made truly meaningful successes of their lives and in their careers. For instance, check out the Parsons College "Wall of Honor" to get a glimpse of an amazing collection of some of Parsons most prominent graduates...

*(Editor's Note: Doug has researched many yearbooks regarding people and the happenings of Parsons College. In this column he has randomly extracted 84 of the most active and contributing classmates of the Class of 1966 and listed their activities. Although many other members of the class posted stellar college and careers, this group epitomizes the active of the active.)*

It's been 50 years! Where has time gone? Looking back to the year 1966, there were 423 seniors in the graduating class. After a personal 2-day Peira yearbook review, "Remember When" would like to mention and highlight many of those graduating seniors of that great class... and of course, make mention of *LIFE Magazine*. No one who attended the 1966 Summer Trimester, or were even on summer break can forget *LIFE's* June, 1966 dastardly story on Parsons College. No one could change what was written, or of course, the shattering results which would follow seven years later in 1973.

But today, looking back in retrospect, we are certain that ALL Parsons students, faculty, administration and even the knowledgeable town folks of Fairfield would be pleased and proud of two wonderful things that have transpired over the years. Beginning at the closing of the college in 1973, and continuing through today: A: We know most Parsons students from the 1870's to 1973 graduated. They then went onto meaningful adult lives and careers. B: *LIFE Magazine's* publishing frequency as a "weekly" changed virtually months after Parsons. In 1967, it went from a "weekly"

to "one-shot." A decade later, management sought a new direction and a new audience. The publication was reduced to a monthly publication until 2002. At that time, due to increasing costs exceeding profits, *LIFE* went to online. For further results of their demise, go online to Wikipedia for the information...

Returning to the Senior Class of 1966. Most of us came to Parsons for one of two reasons: 1: A first chance at attending college; 2: A second chance (or maybe more) at attending college. ENews herein salutes the 423 seniors depicted in the 1966 yearbook on the 50<sup>th</sup> year since their graduation. In our last issue, "Remember When" saluted grads from the Class of 1964. This issue we intended to squeeze in 50, but there were a number more who we could not leave out. So here are 84 grads who, based on their participation and achievements at Parsons, are deserving of mention as they celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their graduation. Perhaps each of these individuals should have been "honorably interviewed" by *LIFE Magazine*?

***Let us never forget that EVERY Parsons College graduate has outworked, outclassed and outlasted LIFE Magazine!!***

With that thought firmly entrenched in mind, enjoy reading the names listed below. We are thrilled to list so many of the "Major Accomplishers" who made a difference and left their marks while at Parsons College:

**George Akerson** – Green Key, IFC, Student Government, PSE; **Betsy Allen** – AWS, Panhellenic Council, Student Government, AXD; **Judy Arnold** – Green Key, ISEA, MonxHead, Omicron, Panhellenic Council, Student Advisory Council, AGD; **Bill Atkins** – MVP Basketball, TKE; **Ed Atwood** – Young Republicans President; **Bruce Baker** – Portfolio, Student Government, TKE; **Joan Baker** – ISEA Panhellenic Council, DZ; **Ellen Barbaro** – Cheerleader, Miss Mistletoe Court, Greek/Homecoming Queen Courts, AXD; **Mitch Baron** – SharpChuters, WTBA; **Dick Barton** – MonxHead, Football, PSE; **Larry Blixt** – Omicron, Football, Baseball, Athlete of the Year, SPE; **Dick Brier** – Band, Green Key, ISEA, MonxHead, Rhythmaires, PKP; **Eugene Calvin** – SharpChuters, IFC, SPE; **Denny Chalupa** – Green Key, Portfolio, PSE; **Lee Champion** – Student Government; **Rich Clark** – Portfolio, RCS; **Lew Cleminson** – ISEA, Student Trainer, SPE; **Barb Cliff** – Chorale, WRA, DA; **Alice Cooperman** – Panhellenic Council, WRA, AOP President; **Howdy Davis** – Parsonaires, Portfolio, PSE; **Dave Dillingham** – Wrestling, PSE;



\* Ellen Barbaro \*

*(Continued on page 15)*

(REMEMBER – cont'd)

**Betty Downey** – Green Key, Student Government, Song Leader, PomPom, Green Week Queen, AGD; **Rich Elliott** – Student Government, PKA; **Fred Emde** – Green Key, Football, PSE; **Bill English** – Student Court, Ass't to Dean of Students, TCT; **Marie Falbo** – Omicron, Homecoming Court, AXD President; **Marilyn Falbo** – Student Government, WRA; **Martin Felice** – Green Key, Student Senate President; **Robert Fox** – Chief Justice Student Court; **Carl Graf** – Omicron, Parsonaires; **Susan Graves** – Green Key MonxHead, Omicron, Panhellenic Council, Peira, Greek Week Court, Miss Mistletoe, Homecoming Queen, DZ President; **Janice Haughawout** – MonxHead, AGD; **Tim Heintzelman** – Baseball, SPE; **Rich Hoadley** – Green Key, MonxHead, Phi Kappa Phi, Track; **Barth Holohan** – MonxHead, Wrestling, TKE Chaplain; **Georgia Houseman** – Debate, Green Key, Peira, Portfolio, Senior Orator, Presidential Plaque, faculty Award, AOP; **Dave Hughes** – Senior Class President, WTBA; **Bob Jackson** – PCBand, Student Government, Green Key, SP; **Doug James** – ISO, Student Government Vice President, Gold Key, RCS; **Jim Jewett** – IFC, DSP President; **Todd Kantorowicz**, Parsonaires, TKE; **Chris Kellogg** – Student Government, TCT; **John Killian** – Business Club President; **Roberta Kretsch** – Chorale, ISEA, WRA, AGD; **Arlyn Larson** – Basketball, ACR; **John Markey** – Green Key – Omicron, Portfolio, Student Government, Track, TKE; **Larry Marino** – IFC, Football, SPE; **Eric Marshall** – IFC, Young



\* Susan Graves \*

Republicans, ACR; **Nancy Marshall** – Beta Beta Beta, Green Key, MonxHead, Omicron, Phi Kappa Phi, Class Salutatorian; **Fred Martin** – Track, VIP, SPE; **Al Mast** – RCS; **Jim Mays** – ISO, TCT; **Lynette Meiser** – AWS, ISEA, AXD; **John Metzger** – Sigma Alpha Phi, PSE; **Rich McAvoy** – Portfolio, Student Senate, TKE; **William McFarland** – IFC, Homecoming & Gala Fete Chairman, SPE; **Chuck McKelvey** – Student Government, IFC, SPE; **Bob Montgomery** – Omicron, Portfolio, Gold Key, PSE; **Ed Moore** – RCS; **Tim Murray** – IFC, PSE; **Jim Nield** – Homecoming Committee, Inter-fraternity Council President, Freshman Orientation Chairman, Outstanding Greek Award, TKE President; **Fred Ramlow** – IFC, Omicron, Outstanding Greek, Football, SPE President; **Jim Rey** – IFC,

Band, Rhythmaires, LCA; **Walt Rizer** – Green Key, MonxHead, Phi Kappa Phi, LCA; **John Robbins** – Student Government, ISO, IFC, SP; **Leo Rosen** – Debate, IFC, PSD; **Jim Roy** – IFC, Student Government, DSP; **Jane Sheffer** – Green Key, ISEA, Gold Key Panhellenic Council President, WRA, DZ; **Alyce Smith** – ISEA, WRA President, Gold Key, Pi Beta Phi; **Susan Smith** – Student Government, WRA, AGD; **Wes Smith** – IFC, Young Republicans, DC; **John Speakman** – Flying Club, Green Key, Omicron; **Craig Spicer** –



\* Fred Ramlow \*



\* Bob Montgomery \*



\* Jim Nield \*

IFC, Student Government, KCLS Station Manager, PKA President; **Mary Steele** – AWS, Green Key, MonxHead, AXD; **Alan Toth** – Chorale, IFC, MonxHead, Parsonaires, TKE; **Bill Urban** – IFC, MonxHead, Portfolio, Student Government, SP; **Charles Waldron** – TCT President; **Duncan Wall** – Portfolio, Golf Captain, Young Republicans, PSE; **Earl Webb** – Chorale, ISEA, MonxHead, Portfolio, Student Court, LCA; **Pat Wehr** – Green Key, ISEA, MonxHead, AGD; **Craig Welch** – Baseball, TKE; **Marilynne Wepsala** – AWS, MonxHead, Portfolio, Student Government, WRA, AXD; **Janet West** – AWS, ISEA, Panhellenic Council, Student Government, WRA, AOP; **Danella Young** – Green Key, ISEA, MonxHead, Phi Kappa Phi, Outstanding Speaker, AGD...



\* Jane Sheffer \*



\* Marilynne Wepsala \*

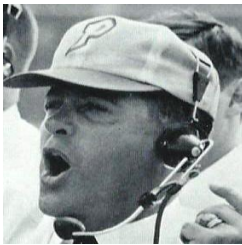
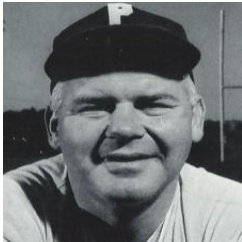
Be sure to check back again to the Summer Edition of the PC ENewsletter, as our “Remember When” columnist, **Doug Marion**, will take us back for a look and recap of the great Parsons athletic teams of 1966...

*(Editor’s Note: The Greek fraternity and sorority and the social organizations names listed above have been abbreviated as best we remember.)*

# THE ALUMNI WRITE...

## Parsons through the eyes of a Fairfield teenager

**Doug Harrison, PC'72 of Mt. Pleasant writes...** I have enjoyed the newsletter over the last several years and thought it might be of interest to share my memories and experiences as a teenager in the 60's as relates to Parsons. My parents, **Bob and Sylvia Harrison**, were students in the 50's and I was a member of the last freshman class in 1972. Football and basketball were the big things to me. I did not realize how successful the baseball team was until I researched the 1967 Peira. I did have the pleasure of meeting **Duane Banks** after he spoke at a service club in Iowa City as Iowa's head coach. When I went to a PC basketball game it was to see the animated personality of **O. B. Nelson** (see photo) as much as watching the game. Football was about **Daynor Prince** the quarterback, **John O' Dell** the kicker, and **Art Walker** as the original Fridge! And of course, **Chelo Huerta** the coach (see photo), who also gave of himself to coach our Little League team. His son Bubba was a star on the team and we posted a first place

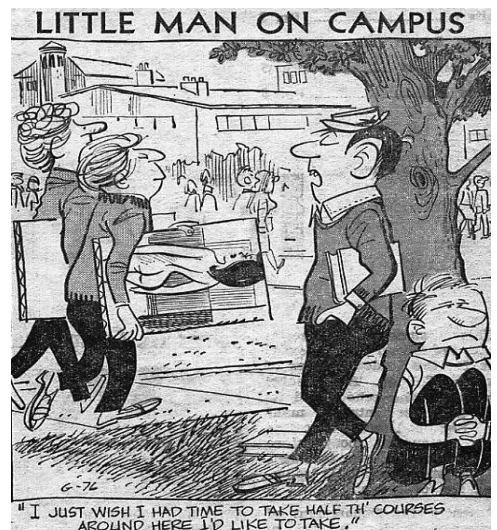


finish. I remember with pride attending a football game to see **Dick Nelson** play linebacker after he transferred, I think, back from Kansas. As an 8th grader at FHS we were kind of in awe as Prince was introduced as a student/teacher in our PE class. That gym class also reminds me of the time when a fellow student had the *Grateful Dead* skull and crossbones logo on his white T-shirt. Our teacher went crazy on him. We all thought he was a head case as we had no idea then who the band was. His dad taught at Parsons, the year was 1968. One Saturday morning I was with a friend as he collected his money for the *Fairfield Ledger*. We were at an old house on South Main Street rented by college students. After entering the front door, we were told to go upstairs and knock on a bedroom door. We did and were surprised to see a young couple still in bed. The guy happily paid us his newspaper bill without leaving the warmth of his girlfriend or the bed. After that, I could not wait to go to college! My last story is of having our (wild) homecoming party at a college fraternity house in the country when I was a senior in high school. Luckily, nobody got (caught), hurt, or suspended from the team. "Stay Forever Young PCAlums"

**Dennis Marandos, PC/n/a, Brookline, NH - [k1lggdennis@charter.net](mailto:k1lggdennis@charter.net) writes...** The birthday partying is over and it's back to the old routine. I must have had 40 birthday wishes and each one was warmly received. I didn't get cake or ice cream and I always say, it's not a birthday without both...oh well, next year!! If there is anything I can do to help with the Parsons newsletter, I'll do my best. Not sure what "state of progress" you're into, but I certainly miss the old gang. I just retired officially last month (September, 2015) and I no longer teach. My last assignment was professor at Daniel Webster College in Nashua, NH. I am an English major and taught technical writings to these students who couldn't read or write. My background in electronics, and dealing with amateur Ham radio made it easy for me to write, as well as teach how to deal with technical documents. It's amazing how many top level engineers can't write a whole paragraph, let alone an intelligent sentence. The days here are sunny and the nights are cool. Fall has hit New Hampshire and everyone is secretly talking about winter. In the mall, stores Christmas trees are planted in the walkways to give buyer's a gentle hint. OMG? Wow... I'm feeling pretty important NOW! Always good to hear from the old gang at Parsons. Stay in touch and wonderful to hear from you!

(Editor's Note: Sorry this missed the last edition, but we're catching up. You may recall, Dennis sent us a number of "Little Man on Campus" cartoons, which we've published from time to time and are most appreciative.)

(Continued on page 17)



Courtesy of Dennis Marandos



### **Yes, Fairfield has an RV Park**

**Janet Vincent, PC'71 of Galveston, TX...** I graduated from Parsons College, kind of, as I left in 1971 and went to Ottumwa, Iowa to become a Medical Technologist. I had to get my transcripts from the University of Iowa. They said I had graduated with a BS in Chemistry. I will have to say, I loved every day that I was at Parsons and would do it again if I had a chance to go back in time. Being raised in Ottumwa, Iowa, I feel that Parsons showed me what the rest of the USA was about, since so many people were from all over USA. Now, would it be bad for me to nominate ME for the Wall of Honor? I could have a friend send my nomination, but thought I would ask, as I have lost contact with most of my friends from 1971. I have not been able to come back to any of the reunions because of work. Since I am retiring in March from my position as an Education Coordinator at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX, I really plan on coming back for a (future) reunion. So many memories from that college. I really believe my entire life started because of that college and all the great teachers and people I met! I've now lived in Galveston, TX since 1977. Question: Do you know if Fairfield has an RV park? The one in Ottumwa is not that great.

*(Editor's Note: Yes, there are Jefferson County Park RV accommodations just south of town at 2003 Libertyville Road, Fairfield, IA (ph: 641-472-4421 AND yes, you may nominate yourself to Wall of Honor by contacting Dave Neff)*

### **Unemployed!!! WILL WORK FOR FOOD!!!**

**Donald Kivowitz, PC'66 - [dkivowitz@regencyhealthcare.com](mailto:dkivowitz@regencyhealthcare.com) writes...** Unemployed!! WILL WORK FOR FOOD!!! *(Editor's Note: Before feeling sorry for Don, a 1966 Parsons graduate and 2015 Wall of Honor inductee, and reaching into your pocket to throw him your loose change, READ THE FOLLOWING clipping from a Texas news release.)* “Don Kivowitz, a Dallas businessman, has sold almost three dozen Texas skilled nursing facilities, which included 4,200 licensed beds and some “shovel-ready” development opportunities for what is believed to be the largest seniors housing sale in the state of Texas. Regency Post-Acute Healthcare System, headed by founder and chairman Donald Kivowitz, sold the statewide portfolio to Capital Senior Ventures in a deal negotiated by Marcus & Millichap. The purchase included facilities in the Austin area, Corpus Christi, Victoria, Houston, Rio Grande Valley and San Antonio. Representatives from Institutional Property Advisors brokered the sale. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed, but it's reported to be the largest portfolio sales of skilled nursing facilities since the 6.1 billion sale in 2011.” Under Kivowitz's direction, Regency built the portfolio up to 33 skilled nursing facilities over the past 26 years. “We have an excellent therapy company, a consulting company, a construction company and a pharmacy. We ended up with 4,300 employees taking care of 3,800 elderly and sick people. Regency constantly focused on good patient care. We always knew that was the way to build a successful business. We treated our patients and our employees like family,” Kivowitz said, before adding, “SEE WHAT A PARSONS EDUCATION CAN DO!!!”

## ***The Spring Mystery Quiz – THE QUESTION???***

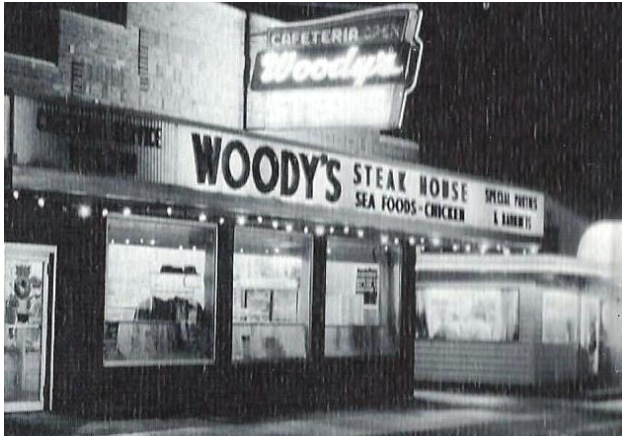
With tongue in cheek we ask, “Who is this Motley Crew?” Appears to be quite an assortment from Mafia looking to perhaps the Choir boy look. But assuming a relation to Parsons College, you can rule out the Choir boy. So, we ask, who are these guys? What is their location and what in heavens are they doing, or preparing. As usual please forward your answer to our editor and should you be drawing a blank, tune into the Summer edition of ENews for the answer!!!



***“Time is Our Most Precious Commodity...Spend it Wisely!”*** 65'nWise

## *The Fall/Winter Mystery Quiz – THE ANSWER???*

### **YESTERDAY 1963 - WOODY'S STEAKHOUSE & DINER**



If you guessed Woody's Steakhouse and Diner you were correct. Woody's might have offered two of the hottest eateries in the City of Fairfield. The old steakhouse has housed a frequently turning battery of restaurants. Currently a Chinese restaurant occupies the old building and we believe a small office/business has replaced the old diner on the right. In it's day that diner looked like a mobile home trailer wrapped in aluminum but served the best breaded pork tenderloin sandwich in southeast Iowa...

### **TODAY 2015 – REMENANTS OF WOODY'S STEAKHOUSE AND DINER**



#### **MEMORIES FROM OUR PAST...**

These two buildings were hot spots for the students of Parsons as well as the residents of Fairfield. As most of the past treasures of Fairfield, both buildings have now been transformed. We asked you to look carefully at the photo, turn the key to your vivid imagination and help us identify the buildings. How did you do? They truly were a couple "lively" spots and should not be forgotten!!

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***Believe it or not! Our Parsons Alumni E-Newsletter is now reaching over 2,273 Alums and Friends!***

**A MESSAGE FROM NANCY:** *"We've all taken different paths in life, but no matter where we have gone, we've taken a little of each other everywhere with us. Please join us in helping to keep the spirit and the memory of Parsons College alive, and the contacts and connections to old and new friendships active and on-going. Remember, a new friend is valuable and old friends are priceless. Please send us the names and contact information of any newly located alumni."*

## Greek and Social News...



*Alpha Xi Delta Sorority sisters connect. Pictured L/R: Judy Cochran, Evanston, IL; Myrna Solheim Curtis, Williamsburg, IA; Shirley Lowe Cromer, Marion, IA; Linda Whitney Hooker, Bend, OR; Virginia Langner Pickerell, Madison, WI. Fran Carson attended but not shown in photo...*

### Alpha Xi Delta's came, saw & conquered

They had the time of their collective lives. It's just been 55 years since they were last together, and the PC All-Classes Reunion provided the setting. It was agreed, the time spent was not long enough. This reunion of friends was long overdue and thoroughly enjoyed. "We hope to not wait another 55 years to see each other again," said organizer **Virginia Langner Pickerell** ([gngsrnp2@gmail.com](mailto:gngsrnp2@gmail.com)). In her haste to get this information off to ENews, Virginia neglected to send in photo, names and the reunion follow-up. We knew the AXD's were in Fairfield, we just didn't know who attended. Since then, Virginia has reconciled the event, and her tardy report is no longer tardy...

### Phi Sigs converge on Florida tracking the BIG ONE!!



A small group of Phi Sigs converged on Florida seeking a fun reunion and also in quest of catching the BIG ONE...and that they did. **Rich "Boomer" Mentzer** ([RMentzer08@att.net](mailto:RMentzer08@att.net)) and **Jack Downing** (*photo on right*) display the catch of the day, which they reeled in from the waters of the Florida Keys. Also joining the party (*photo on left*) L/R: Mentzer, **Tom Gillingham**, wife **Darbi**, **Jack Weiss**, **Sue** and **Jack Downing**. The featured event was a luncheon in Melbourne, FL. Florida resident **Gary Mann** also touched base with the group...

### **The Sig Eps are coming: Clear the decks & bar the doors**

Look out San Antonio, Texas...the Sig Eps are coming! You thought the Alamo was something? Wait til you see the bros of Sigma Phi Epsilon in action. Yes, plans for the 6<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual SPE reunion is being planned for the last weekend of October, 2016. **Dave Neff**, a regular, at the gatherings says, "Seems like each time we get together they just keep getting better and better." Plans are currently in the works and lots of blanks to fill in but if interested, contact chairman **Hobie Bannister**: [hobieanddawnb@q.com](mailto:hobieanddawnb@q.com) for more information...

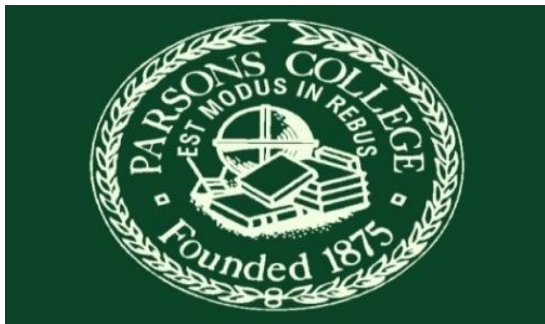
### *TKE's Packing Bags and heading to Arizona*

As we write, the TKE's are either packing their bags and heading to Scottsdale, AZ or they're already there. **Gary Ratkin**, along with **Barth Holohan** and **Johnny Matthews** have put together another reunion bonanza in the desert. Attendees are expected to begin arriving Thursday, April 28 and depart Sunday, May 1. Sandwiched in between will be plenty of golf, and more food, drink and Happy Hours than a human being should be allowed. Ratkin reports that close to 50 invitations went out to their Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity bros and they were expecting a large crowd, including a number of wives and significant others. Stay tuned for the follow-up report...

*(Continued on page 20)*

## Lambda Chi's join growing circuit of mini-Parsons Reunions

A small group of Lambda Chi's from Parsons in the early 1960's gathered at the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas for a mini-reunion April 4-April 6, 2016. While small in number, a great time was had by all, reminiscing and telling stories from the wonderful years at Parsons College. While **Ken Rice** was not a fraternity brother, he wished to attend to reconnect with one of his favorite Wildcat basketball players and teammates, **Roger Sherrard**. Those attending were (see picture #1, the guys left to right): **Rich Becker**, St. Louis, MO; **Don Samuelson** ([dsam8079@gmail.com](mailto:dsam8079@gmail.com)), Ankeny, IA; Roger Sherrard, Kennesaw, GA; **Bill Winger**, Denver, CO; **Van Hackett**, Bridgewater, VA; Ken Rice, Glendale, AZ. All of the wives enjoyed a fun time also. The attending (see picture #2, the girls left to right): **Sue Wehby Sherrard**, PC/DZ; **Donna Hotaling Winger**, PC/DZ; **Joyce Becker**; **Jeanne Samuelson**; **Marti Rice**, PC/64; **Clara Ann Hackett**, PC/67. While a memorable occasion it was, it also brought forth the reality that our clocks are ticking rapidly and such occasions are treasures and should be maximized while we're able to do so. It would be GREAT to have a major increase in attendance at our next gathering!!!



*The Iris City Cleaners in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa has created a Parsons logo mat. The decorative mat is 3' x 4' and made of nylon pile fabric with cleated nitrile rubber backing. If interested in purchasing this piece of memorabilia, contact Ed Longanecker via email at: [emlong2@iowatelecom.net](mailto:emlong2@iowatelecom.net), fax at 319-385-9707, or call 888-485-9707. The price is \$62.95+ shipping. (See page 26 for more PC memorabilia).*

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*Editor's Note: To submit Greek, social, or personal news, send request to Nancy Wirtanen at: [nwirtanen@yahoo.com](mailto:nwirtanen@yahoo.com) for consideration. E-News reserves the right to edit all material and downsize due to limited space. Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily represent those of E-News or the PCAA. The Parsons College Alumni E-News is not affiliated with the Parsons News-line, or George Jordan III.*

## Letters to the Editor...

Congrats on the publishing of another – SUPERB – PCNewsletter. How fortunate we are to have you unselfishly giving of your time and talents. Parsons may well have been a second chance college education for some, but it surely was a unique opportunity and education for ALL of us.

**Calvin Hill, PC/SP'68** – [calvinhill2000@yahoo.com](mailto:calvinhill2000@yahoo.com)



Thanks for all the news and updates. We sure appreciate the effort. Keep it up!  
**Tim Hibbard, PC'64-'66** – [aufishtim@charter.net](mailto:aufishtim@charter.net)

I attended Parsons from 1959-1963. I am looking for a 1963 Peira yearbook. If you can help please let me know the cost and contact me at 912-655-8248.

**Wally Murphy, PC'63**

Many thanks for sending the newsletter. My husband Will was amazed at its length and remarked that the editors placed a lot of time into producing it! I heartily agree!

**Dixie (Will) Hoekman, PC'n/a** – [wjh50@aol.com](mailto:wjh50@aol.com)

*(Editor's Note: You have no idea!! Lol!!!)*

I came across this photo of the Parsons Band. I would date it as 1963 or 1964. That's Director, Ken Carpenter at the far right, first row. I think I may have been the drum major, but I am not sure, as I cannot really see who's who. Trust all's well!!

**Steve Smith, PC'64** – [smithstephen@yahoo.com](mailto:smithstephen@yahoo.com)



*(Editor's Note: Actually this band photo features the 1961 Marching Wildcats. Best info tells us the drum major was Michael Stone (left white uniform), the lead majorette was Jeni Baker (center white outfit) and director Ken Carpenter (right white uniform).*

Thanks for sending the excellent newsletter and updates. Your editorial/rebuttal to the Laura Crossett (Des Moines Register) piece was outstanding. A very articulate retort! Wishing you all well!

**Michael Hawkins, PC'67** – [hawk3m@verizon.net](mailto:hawk3m@verizon.net)

You're doing a wonderful job! Thanks so much! **Peter Rollins, PC'n/a** – [peterlrollins@gmail.com](mailto:peterlrollins@gmail.com)

Another great Enewsletter. You guys do a terrific job and it is appreciated. Thanks and I think you are right on with your editorial regarding the Laura Crossett piece. My bests!

**Ron Staggs, PC'59** – [rstaggs1@cinci.rr.com](mailto:rstaggs1@cinci.rr.com)

That diminutive chemistry professor noted in a recent newsletter was either **Henry Rakoff** or **Ken Roettger**. Rakoff taught organic chemistry and its derivatives, while Roettger taught inorganic and its derivatives. Both were short, forceful, excellent instructors, and fine men. Of the two, Roettger was the more forward and dynamic personality, while Rakoff was a more quiet, but ironically, a humorous person. I recall reading that Roettger stayed in Fairfield and became a postal service employee. I don't remember where Rakoff ended up, but he was my advisor, and he gave me one of the most sage pieces of advice I ever received, saying, "Remember, chemical companies aren't in business to make chemicals...they're in business to make MONEY!" That advice has served me well over all these ensuing years.

**Frank Baron, PC'71** - [ffbssb@aol.com](mailto:ffbssb@aol.com)

## In Memoriam...



*George Veselka*

**George "Hunk" Veselka, PC'59-'65**...of Centennial, CO, passed away from an infectious staph infection at a local Denver area hospice with his family by his side on April 24, 2016. He was 76. After graduation from LaGrange (IL) High School in 1959, George was placed on a bus by his parents, destination Fairfield, IA, and told to seek admission to Parsons College. While walking to campus, George, who was about 6' 4" tall, was offered a ride to campus by a local resident. That local was Coach O.B. Nelson, who was always in search of basketball talent. George was delivered to VP Milford Hughes office and was accepted on the spot. He returned to the Leggett Hotel bus stop, and returned home to LaGrange - all in the same day. George entered Parsons, joined Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity, and remained until 1965. Along the way he met and married his college sweetheart, **Betsy Galt**. They were married 50 years. George worked as a salesman throughout most of his career, primarily with *Data Documents, Inc.* He is survived by wife Betsy, one daughter, one son, two grand daughters and a host of loving Phi Sig Bros. At George's request, there was no notice of death and no service...

**David M. Hubler, PC'58-'62**... died April 12, at home in West Des Moines, surrounded by his family. Dave was born in Omaha, Nebraska. The son of a Presbyterian minister and a Sunday school teacher, his life was guided by faith, hope, and love, values he passed on to his children and grandchildren. He graduated from Parsons College, and did graduate work in history and student life. While at Parsons, he met **Tamara Davis** and they were married in 1962. Dave worked in the student unions of Parsons, University of Illinois, University of Maryland and California State, Chico. He was the executive director at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he oversaw a major building project. Dave loved to travel with his wife, children, and grandchildren, and instilled a love of neighbor, a sense of social responsibility, and keen sense of humor. He was a member of Kiwanis, served in many leadership roles and sang in the churches choir. Dave is survived by his wife Tam of 54 years, a daughter, a son and three grandchildren. A service was held at the Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive...



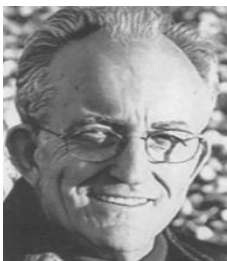
*Dave Hubler*



*Lee Scott Nash  
Pestel*

**Lee Scott Nash Pestel, PC'61-'63**... A longtime resident of Rogers, AR passed away peacefully surrounded by family April 6, 2016. She was 73. Lee attended Parsons College from 1961-63 and was named "Miss Frosh." She was affiliated with Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority and was married to **Eric Nash**. They were later divorced. Lee had many talents and hobbies and her most favorite was cooking. She was a court clerk for Benton County for many years and was involved in the Rogers Little Theater. Lee, who was preceded in death by her loving husband Joe, is survived by four children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Rollins Funeral Home handled arrangements.

*(Continued on page 23)*



*Tyler Clements*

**Tyler “Ty” Clements, PC’mid-’60’s...** lost his battle with Alzheimer's disease surrounded by family at Solterra Care Center in Castle Rock, CO, December 11, 2015. Tyler, 75, was born in Cedar Rapids and attended Shattuck School. He graduated from Parsons in the mid-1960’s. Tyler was the epitome of a people person and a natural entrepreneur. His inherent sales ability allowed him to achieve top rankings in many diverse endeavors. Tyler is survived by one son, one daughter and four grandchildren. A memorial service was held at the Springville Methodist Church in Springville, IA...

**William “Bill” Campbell, PC’53...**formerly of Cedar Rapids died April 9, 2016 at Windmill Manor in Coralville. Bill was born in Fairfield. He was also raised in Princeton, IL but graduated from Fairfield High School and received his Bachelors of Arts degree in Business Administration from Parsons. After serving in the U.S. Army for two years, Bill returned to Fairfield and began his career as a junior high school teacher. In 1966, he and his family moved to Beatrice, NE, where he taught classes and helped with activities at Pershing College, one of the Parsons satellites. Then in 1969, he moved back to Iowa and began a long career teaching history at Vernon Middle School in Marion. An avid sports fan, Bill coached basketball and track during much of his career. He retired from teaching in 1995 and moved to Windmill Manor in 2014. Bill is survived by two sons and two grandsons. Funeral arrangements were handled by Lensing Funeral & Cremation Service in Iowa City. A memorial service was to be planned at a later date...



*Bill Campbell*



*Charlie Williams*

**Charles “Charlie” Williams, PC’67-’68...**Enews has just learned of the January 27, 2015 passing of Charlie Williams in Daytona Beach, FL. He was 67 and died of complications following surgery to clear blocked coronary arteries. Charlie was born in Flushing, NY and attended Parsons in 1967-68 before being drafted by the New York Mets in the 7<sup>th</sup> round of the 1968 MLB draft. He made the Major League club out of Spring training in 1971 and first appeared in a game on April 23, 1971. In 1972 he became famous, not for what he did on the pitching mound, but for who and where he was traded. Charlie was traded, straight

up, to the San Francisco Giants for an aging Willie Mays. He continued on with the SF Giants for seven years and pitched his final game on September 11, 1978. Charlie has a career mark of 23-22, and ERA of 3.97 and posted 257 strikeouts. But even in his final weeks he was still the target of card/autograph collectors who were seeking memorabilia from the man who was traded for Willie Mays. After retiring from baseball, he briefly drove a cab in New York City before moving to Florida. He is survived by a daughter, son and a sister...

*(Continued on page 24)*

***“Whoever called these the GOLDEN YEARS was color blind!”*** 65’nWise



*Leonard Deutsch*

**Leonard Deutsch, PC/early'60's**...of Rochelle, IL died February 20, 2016 at the Rochelle Rehab & Health Care Center. He was 75. Leonard was born in East Pleasant Plain and later married Marlene Ann Veronica Beltramea at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fairfield. He joined the Iowa National Guard Red Bull Division. Leonard attended Parsons and worked at Harper Brush Works in Fairfield before switching to a lengthy career in the insurance business (1962-2006). He helped start the RTHS Speech, Alzheimer's and Diabetic Support Groups. In addition to volunteering for numerous community projects, Leonard also helped to get accreditation for the Diabetic Support Group. He had a kidney transplant in 1997 and

was one of the first to wear an insulin pump to control his diabetes. Leonard was an active member of the St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Rochelle. He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter and six grandchildren. The family was assisted by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home of Rochelle...

**Maruta Rubens Gardner, PC'69**...of Mission Beach was hit by a car and hospitalized February 12, 2016 before being taken off life support a day later. Maruta, a community activist, was painting over graffiti in a San Diego neighborhood when she was struck by a suspected drunk driver. Police said Maruta, a 68-year-old was hit in the Mission Beach area by a Toyota Corolla. The driver sped away but was arrested a short distance away. Maruta was beloved by those in the Mission Beach Community and described as a "superstar" and a "good friend." There was no job too big or small, a friend told the media. She was affectionately known as the "Graffiti Lady." Her impact could be seen all over. Last November, the San Diego City Council dedicated a day in her honor for her decades of hard work. She was president of the Mission Beach Women's Club and principal of the MB High School. At Parsons, the Irvington, NJ native was in ISEA, Green Key, MonxHead, Omicron, Student Government and AGD sorority. She is survived by her husband, William of 50 years...



*Maruta Rubens Gardner*



*"Jack" Lloyd Kibbons*

**"Jack" Lloyd Kibbons, PC'65**...of Kankakee IL (formerly of Franklin Park, IL), passed in peace, surrounded by family January 25, 2016 after losing a long battle with cancer. He was 80. Jack was born in Kankakee, Illinois and was the youngest of nine children. After graduating from Kankakee High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines Corps, where he served his country honorably as Sergeant during the Korean War, earning several medals. He attended Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois; graduated from Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa; and received a Master's degree from Northeastern University in Illinois. While at Parsons, Jack played football and was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity. He was employed within the

Berkeley District #87 School System in Chicago as a teacher, counselor, principal and assistant superintendent until his retirement at age 55. Jack was a current member of the Aroma Park American Legion Post #1019. In his leisure, he enjoyed fishing, auctions, and traveling to Las Vegas. He is survived by ex-wife Bertha, four daughters and five grandchildren. The funeral was handled by the Clancy Gernon Funeral Home and a memorial service was held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.

**Edward Patric Snee, PC'n/a**... age 69, passed away Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at his home in Sun Prairie, WI. He was born January 4, 1943 in Oneonta, New York. Edward attended Parsons College and graduated from the University of Iowa. He married **Loretta Farmer** in 1972. Prior to retiring, Edward owned his own Home Repair and Remodeling Company. He was a member of the Sun Prairie Lion's Club and is survived by his son and a number of relatives. At the family request, no service will be held. Funeral arrangements were handled by All Faiths Funeral & Cremation of Madison, WI...

*(Continued on page 25)*





*Norm Schuller*

**Norman L. Schuller, PC'late 50's/early 60's...** of Princeville, Kauai, Hawaii, formerly of Oelwein, died March 18, 2016. He was 74. Norm was born Nov. 10, 1939, in Dubuque. He attended Parsons in the late 1950's, early 1960's and was a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity. Norm married Sharon Jipson who preceded him in death. He worked for United Airlines for more than 35 years until retiring in 1995. Norm is survived by his wife, Julie, three daughters, a son and six grandchildren. A celebration of life was held at Geilenfeld Funeral Home, with burial in Woodlawn Cemetery, both in Oelwein. A second Celebration of Life will be held on Kauai later this summer...

**Dennis Lane, PC/mid-50's...** passed away peacefully at the Midland Hospice House, Topeka, KS, February 1, 2016. Dennis was born in Lovilia, IA, the first of five children. The family moved to Fairfield in 1942 and he attended the local schools before joining the U.S. Army from 1953-55. Dennis returned to attend Parsons, then later moved to Des Moines. In 1972, he established the Denny Lane Sports Promotion Company, engaging in the promotion of professional sports coast to coast. Dennis was particularly proud of his association with the Detroit Red Wings hockey team's annual "Kids Night" program, but his affection for Fairfield never wavered. When his brother died he had a tree planted in his memory on the Central Square. Dennis' siblings plan to do the same for him. He is survived by a number of relatives and friends. A private service was held...



*Dennis Lane*

**Haywood Barnett Belle, PC'n/a...**76, died peacefully March 14, 2016, at his home in Iowa City. Haywood was born in Iowa City and graduated City High School. He attended University of Iowa and received his bachelor's degree from Parsons before serving in the U.S. Air Force. In 1999, Haywood married Sarah Wallace in New York City. He owned and operated H.D. Short & Sons real estate and development company in Iowa City. Haywood was a member of Life Church in Coralville, Iowa City Noon Rotary and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He also volunteered at the Iowa Department of Corrections and served on the Iowa City Board of Review and State Historical Society of Iowa. Haywood is survived by wife, Sarah, and several relatives. Funeral arrangements were handled by Lensing Funeral & Cremation Service, Iowa City...



*Phil Hirschler*

**Phil Hirschler, PC'64...** of Fairfield passed away this week (April 23). Phil, lost his battle with liver cancer. He attended Parsons and graduated in 1964. While at Parsons, he help form the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and was a valued member. In addition, he was in Green Key, MonxHead, the Foreign Language Club and Iowa State Education Association. Phil was also very active in the Fairfield Community, the cultural arts programs, and he was a member of the U.S. Army's 34th Guard Band. He is survived by his wife, Barbara. At this writing funeral arrangements were still pending and we have no further information...

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