



May 2023

# Parsons College News

Volume 13 No. 3

May 2023

Fifty years ago our beloved Parsons closed! People asked if we are going to celebrate Parsons one last time and the answer is YES! The Parsons College Alumni Association (PCAA) is putting together a fantastic weekend for our alumni! Here is the information you have been waiting for!

## Hotels

The first thing you want to do is get your hotel room at one of the following Fairfield hotels:

[The AmericInn by Wyndham in Fairfield\\*\\*](#)

[Rukmapura Park Hotel & Chalet](#)

[Super 8 by Wyndham Fairfield\\*\\*](#)

[VRBO](#) has homes for rent nearby.

[AirBnB has several locations](#)

The PCAA reserved a block of rooms at the hotels with astericks (\*\*), so make sure you ask for that price!

## What is planned?

### Friday, October 6, 2023

- Noon-3:00pm Registration Fairfield Arts and Convention Center
- 4:00-5:00pm Displays & Book Signing My Four Years at Parsons College: The Life and Times of Johnny Blackstock, John Blackstock PC'64. The Piera (PC yearbooks) will be available for purchase.
- 5:00-6:00pm Social Hour
- 6:00pm Reception
- 7:00pm Ice breakers
- 8:00pm Grand premier of the film "Parsons"
- 9:30pm Questions & Answers

### Saturday October 7, 2023

- 9:00am Registration Fairfield Arts and Convention Center
- 10:00am Convocation: Reverend Joseph Phipps, former Pastor Fairfield Presbyterian
- 10:15am Welcome to Fairfield—Connie Boyer, Mayor of Fairfield, IA
- 10:20am Tom Brooks from MIU
- 10:30am Barhydt Organ Recital
- 10:40am Welcome: Nancy Wirtanen, PCAA President
- 10:50am Parsons College Alma Mater
- 11:30am Brunch: Fairfield Arts and Convention Center
- 1:00pm Tour: Carnegie Historical Museum
- 2:30pm Film: Parsons College Fairfield Arts and Convention Center
- 3:30pm Forum: athletics, faulty, alumni, fraternities, sororities, and clubs.  
Tour of MIU
- 6:00pm Social hour Fairfield Arts and Convention Center
- 6:30pm Dinner
- 8:00pm Entertainment - Fairfield Arts and Convention Center

**Sunday October 8, 2023**-time for you to meet up with friends, wander and rediscover Fairfield.



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## The registration for the Reunion Weekend is at the end of this newsletter!

### Register

Fill out the registration form which is on the last page of this issue of the PC News. Please fill out the form, make your check payable to PCAA, and return by **August 1, 2023**.

### What is Included?

Everything outlined on page one! Since we are no longer a College with financial backing, we added \$10.00 to each event to help cover facility fees, audio visual, decorations, nametags, tips, and all those incidentals that add up.

### See you at the Reunion!

Bring your memories, stories, momentos, and yourselves! We can't wait to celebrate this last Parsons Hurrah with you!



### Here is a partial list of those coming!

Denise Abramovitz-Bushman 1969-73

Andy Ballash PC'71

Abby Ahrens Bemis PC'72

John Blackstock PC'64\*

Betty Blough PC'66

Elizabeth Barker Bowers 'PC68

Hank Brenner PC'67

Sheila May Caudle 1969-73

Frank Challant 1965-1968

Pete Critelli PC'71

Louann Baird Davis PC'72

Jim Doull PC'68

Butch Downey PC'66

Charles Fleischer PC'65

Robert Fox PC'66\*

Cheryl Hostetler Fye PC'71

Nora Foshier Giese 1969-73

Wendy Glass PC'73

Patrick Greene 1971-73

RaeLynne Wycoff Hale PC'62

Ray Ham PC'73\*

Gary Hopkins`PC'73

John F LeRoux PC'65

Larry Litwin PC'66\*\*

Ed Longanecker PC'68\*

Norman Maywright 1970-73

Sara Lippit McInerny PC'66

David and Sheri Neff PC'69\*

Paula Olson PC'73

Lucia Campbell Oswald PC'70

David and Lucia Campbell Oswald PC'70

Bob Pertak PC'73

Frank Repass PC'71

Ken Rice 1961-1965

Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70\*

Ed Skinner PC'74

Deborah Soodhalter 67-69

Jerry Staton 59-63

Susan Davis Steinbeck PC'73

Dave Thompson PC'71

Jerry Wehr, 1961-1965

Patricia Kurka Wehr, 1963-1966

David Williams 62-63 and 68-71

Joyce Witzenburg PC'72

Cindy Worley PC'73

Nancy Schwartz Wirtanen PC'73\*

\* denotes PCAA Board member

**Deadline for the July issue is June 15, 2023! Please send your photos and articles to Pam Skinner, PC News Editor at [ParsonsCollege70@gmail.com](mailto:ParsonsCollege70@gmail.com)**

# Parsons College Alumni Board

We interview a PCAA Board member in each issue of the PC News. Our highlighted member for this issue is **Ed Longanecker PC'68**.

Q. *What years did you attend Parsons?*

A. I started in 1964 and graduated in 1968

Q. *What were 3 things that you loved about Parsons and why?*

A. I liked the trimester platform which enabled me to use the entire year for school, the wonderful faculty and support system for instruction and learning, and the social arena with permissible and growing emphasis on independents vs traditional fraternity.

Q. *Who was your favorite professor(s) and why?*

A. Roberts hands down. She was so knowledgeable, had a wonderful method of presentation, and was a caring devoted instructor.

Q. *Where did you live while you were at Parsons?*

A. I started in Macfee, then to the dorms on the hill and stayed in dorm living through to graduation.

Q. *What is your hometown (where you lived when you came to Parsons)?*

A. I was born and spent 19 early years in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania prior to moving to the Midwest and Parsons.

Q. *What career(s) did you have after graduation?*

A. My training at Parsons was in English education. I taught English and Language Arts a few years in local schools, Pekin, Hedrick, and Mt Pleasant, Eventually acquired a Masters in School Administration and Special Education and served as principal at the local Mental Health Institute for children and adolescence at Towers School. Then off to the public sector as regional director of special education for several school districts in Southeastern Iowa through Great River Area Education Agency; I ended there after 39 years in public education.

Q. *Where do you live now?*

A. I currently live in Mt. Pleasant and have since 1970.

Q. *Why did you decide to join the Board?*

A. When the opportunity for the development of an Alumni association emerged, I had interest, proximity to the community, and a desire to preserve what I experienced there. I accepted the invitation and have stayed since its inception. I knew a few of the folks in the works for joining and appreciated their friendship and thought the mix was a good one.

Q. *Please feel free to share a memory or thoughts on Parsons.*

A. We started our own social group with about 15 members, rented our own retreat near Batavia, had our own beer system and even had the Distributor from Ottumwa service our system.

I was married in Barhydt Chapel in 1971 which has a special place in memory.

*Editor's Note:* We Thank Ed for doing the PC News bulk emailing.



# Where are they now?

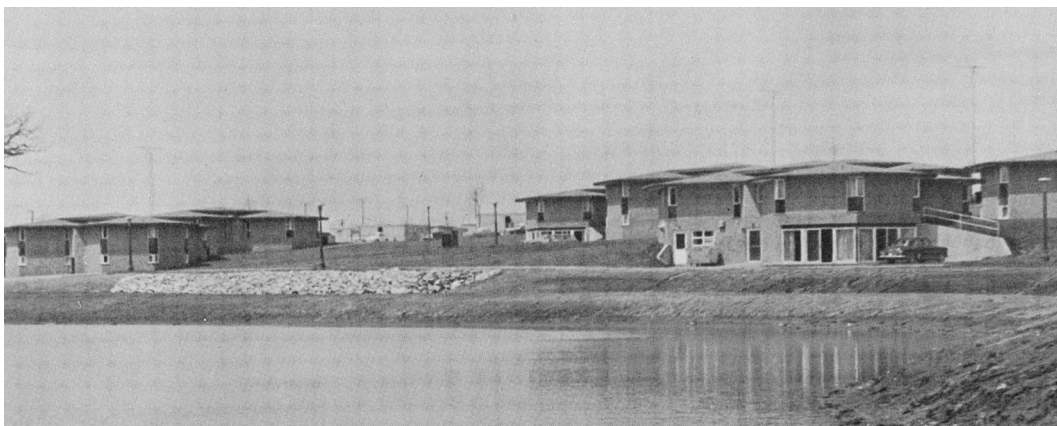
Then and Now



**Elizabeth Findaly Long PC'63** writes: **Ron PC'63** is from New York and I am from Eldon Iowa. We met on campus in 1959. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and I was a Delta Zeta. We both graduated in 1963. We were married on November 23, 1963, one day after president John Kennedy was assassinated. We have lived in Iowa and Minnesota and are now retired and spend part of the winter in Florida. We have been happily married for 59 years and looking forward to our 60th anniversary in November.

## Pete Critelli PC'71

Currently retired in a Montana mountain town, known for ranching and skiing. Five varied careers over fifty-years: Hospitality, Auto Fleet Sales, Real Estate, Writer, and Law Enforcement. I also served several terms as an elected office holder in Montana. Prior to Montana, for fun, I was an extra on Cheers for five years. More recently, in Montana: an extra on Yellowstone and 1923. Parsons offered intangibles that were not available in most other schools at the time, and only now in limited locations. I would do it over again without hesitation.



This photo is from the mid-1960s. Can you name three familiar things in this photo? I will post the photo on FB and ask the questions there. This will be fun!

**Do you have "then and now" photos you would like to share? Deadline for the July issue is June 15, 2023! Please Send them to PC News editor**

# This and That...

## Did you know...

...Blum Stadium opened in 1966? Before that PC played at Fairfield High School.

...Parsons was bankrupt in 1955 when Millard G. Roberts came to the Presbyterian College? The college had 212 students when he arrived.

...Dr. Roberts created Satellite Colleges that operated under Parsons College with the “Parsons Plan” starting in the mid-1960s? They were:

Lea College in Albert Lea, Minn – 1966- 1973

John J. Pershing College in Beatrice, Neb 1966- 1971

Charles City College in Charles City, Iowa Open only 1 year 1967 and closed in 1968

College of Artesia in Artesia, N.M Closed in 1966-1973

Hiram Scott College in Scottsbluff, Neb Closed 1965-1972 (filed for bankruptcy in 1970)

Midwestern College in Denison, Iowa Closed in 1965-1970

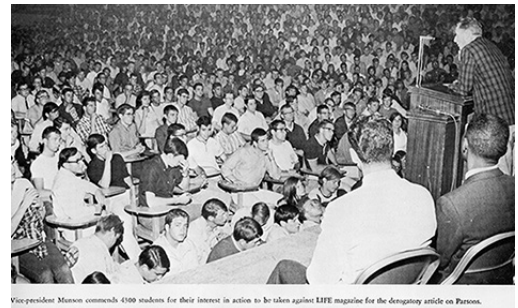
Parsons College lasted the longest from 1875-1973.

Do you  
remember?



**Jack Oswald (Ozzie) PC'70** sent this photo that he took during homecoming Weekend-1969. It was a great weekend especially seeing Neil Diamond in concert.

Jack transferred to Parsons and attended from September 1967 to January 1970; he graduated with the 1970 class and was a Phi Sigma Delta. Jack enjoyed his 2 1/2 years at Parsons, and doesn't think he could have had the career he had without the education he received.



I arrived on campus in June 1966. The Life article was published the day I graduated from high school; when I arrived at Parsons College there was so much going on! Students were vocally supporting PC. I was proud of the student body the moment I walked on campus! What are **your** memories of that time period? I would love to write an article of memories of 1966 until the close! Please email them to [parsonscollege70@gmail.com](mailto:parsonscollege70@gmail.com)

# Parsons Mergers



## **Nancy Perris Litwin PC'71 and Larry Litwin PC'66**

Nancy and I met on June 15, 1967, her first day of classes after she arrived for the summer trimester. We were in Professor Sydney H. Spayde's Drama class in student center one (Auditorium). It was row five. Two female students were seated in seats one and two and I took seat three. My intention was to wait until class ended and I would invite the co-ed in the end seat if she would join me for coffee in Ballard Hall. But the young lady sitting two seats in, and now next to me, dropped her gym suit. I, being the gentleman I was, bent down and picked it up. The other girl (she had dark hair) was gone, so I asked the blonde if she wanted to go to Ballard. Nancy Perris said yes and the rest is history. We got engaged over Christmas break in December 1966 and married on Sept. 3, 1967.



## **Sally McClintock PC'69 and John Serrecchia PC'69**

I am Sally McClintock Salavec PC'69. I was a member of Delta Zeta; I received my degree in Elementary Education in 3 years. . I met and began dating my future husband, John Serrecchia, in February 1967. He was a member of the B.O.A.S (Bermuda, Onion, & Ale Society).

He transferred to Parsons as a sophomore the Fall of 1966. We were engaged in fall 1968. John graduated in May 1969 with a degree in business. I did 18 credit semesters & attended during the summer in order to graduate sooner to get married. I finished after the first eight-week session the summer of 1969. We were married August 23rd of 1969. John passed away Jan. 2000.

## **June Savastano Koc PC'67 and Jack Koc PC'69**

We met at the Delta Chi dorm in 1967. I was on the girls side of the quad. We were married in May 1971 in Maywood NJ. We are still married and live on Sanibel Island and survived Hurricane IAN. Stayed on Sanibel during the storm.



## **Kathryn Herriott Shaffer PC'62 and William (Bill) Barker PC'62**

A group of us who graduated from Fairfield high school went to a movie together before we all went our separate ways to college. A bunch of Parsons football players were at the movie. One decided to try to talk with me and sat behind me at the movie. A couple days later I was at a stop sign and a male from the car behind me ran up to talk. It was the same guy. He discovered I was going to the high school football game and he showed up there too. Eventually I accepted a date. After high school I attended Parsons. He was Sig Ep and I was Alpha Gamma Delta. We married when he left for medical school. We had three children, but the marriage only lasted 9 years. William (Bill) Barker died about three years ago.



**Are you a Parsons Merger?**

*Share your story with us! Send to the PC News editor.*

# In Memoriam

May our fellow alumni Rest in Peace...

<b>Ken Aspemeier PC'53-'57</b>	February 21, 2023	TKE
<b>Fred Bankus PC'58</b>	May 12, 2023	Sigma Phi Epsilon
<b>Rose Marie (Dickinson) Black PC'66</b>	May 2023	
<b>John Garvey PC'65-'68</b>	February 26, 2023	Sigma Phi
<b>Steve Kane PC'65-'69</b>	February 14, 2023	
<b>John Kirchheimer PC'65</b>	February, 23, 2023	
<b>Brian Marquis PC'69</b>	May 2023	Pike
<b>Jack Mcaleer PC'63-'67</b>	February, 21, 2023	The Troops
<b>Ray McClintock PC'64-'68</b>	January 13, 2023	Sigma Phi
<b>Jim Ostrander PC'62</b>	January 13, 2022	Phi Sigma Epsilon,
<b>Sandra Hermel Parker PC'65</b>	January 9, 2022	Alpha Xi Delta
<b>Vera Young (Professor)</b>	February 20, 2023	

## We need your submissions for future issues of the PC News!

Thank you for submitting articles, photos, and information!! **You** make the news, so keep the information coming. Please email all submissions to Pam Roberts Skinner PC'70, [PC News Editor](#).

What can you send?

- Memories/thoughts: you don't have to format the information, I will do that!
- Photos: don't worry about the condition, in most cases I can fix issues. Please do **not** send photos as pdfs (that format is for documents). Send photos as jpg, .jpeg, or .png.
- Please email Pam Skinner, [PC News Editor](#), with your thoughts, questions, ideas, comments.
- I am looking for original material that has not been published elsewhere (i.e, Facebook). Go through your photo albums, scrapbooks, yearbooks, etc. for your Parsons photos!

### Purpose of the Parsons Alumni Association

The object of this association shall be to maintain a connection of Friendship among the alumni of Parsons College by providing a network of communication among Parsons College alumni and to foster a spirit of unity among its members.

The objects for which the corporation is formed are: To promote and further the welfare and interest of the members of this Corporation; to stimulate and to broaden thought and to crystallize sentiment; to bring together intellectual life and the points of view of the members; to encourage, promote, and support an Alumni Association designed to coordinate communication and stimulate interest in reunion affairs; in which they may hold meetings.

The board was established in 2007.



[Facebook](#)

### Parsons College Alumni Association Board

Nancy Wirtanen PC'74, President  
Dave Neff PC'69, Treasurer  
John Blackstock PC'64  
Bill Burger PC'60  
Robert Fox PC'66  
Ray Ham PC'73  
Larry Litwin PC'66  
Ed Longanecker PC'68  
George Reed PC'61  
Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70, PC News Editor

### Publication Info

The Parsons College News is published every other month. To submit articles please email: [Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70, Editor](#)

**Deadline for the July issue is June 15th**



[Parsons College News Submission](#)



[Parsons College Website](#)

# Parsons College Spirit Wear















Dave Neff has arranged with a vendor to have PC spirit wear available for purchase online. You can purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code above or go online to <https://parsonscollege.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>  
 This is **not** an order form it is an explanation of what is available; you must **order from the website!**
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Because we are a small school, they will process this in the following way:

1. The **order** periods will be the **1st thru the 15th of EACH** month starting in April and ending September 15, 2023  
 The **shipping** will be approximately two weeks after the 15th of EACH month starting in April and ending in September.
2. So please allow **two weeks** for production after the 15th of the month. If the item you order becomes unavailable, we will do our best to get a similar brand.

A portion of each item purchased will go to the Parsons College Alumni Association.

<p>Jerzees 29mr Dri-Power 50/50 T-Shirt</p>  <p>3 Colors \$22.00</p>	<p>Bella + Canvas Unisex Jersey Short Sleeve Tee</p>  <p>2 Colors \$23.50</p>	<p>JERZEES Spotshield™ 50/50 Polo</p>  <p>3 Colors \$31.00</p>	<p>Nike Dri-Fit Micro Pique 2.0 Polo</p>  <p>\$53.00</p>	<p>Jerzees 29lsr Dri-Power Long Sleeve 50/50 T-Shirt</p>  <p>3 Colors \$24.00</p>	<p>Jerzees 562mr Nublend Crewneck Sweatshirt</p>  <p>3 Colors \$26.00</p>
<p>Jerzees® Adult 8 Oz. Nublend® Pullover Hooded Swea</p>  <p>3 Colors \$36.00</p>	<p>Augusta Sportswear Medalist Jacket 2.0</p>  <p>\$53.00</p>	<p>Pacific Headwear Coolcore® Sideline Snapback Cap</p>  <p>\$33.00</p>	<p>Richardson 112 Trucker Snapback</p>  <p>\$28.00</p>	<p>Augusta Sportswear Micro-Lite Fleece 1/4 Zip Pullover</p>  <p>\$44.00</p>	<p>Pacific Headwear Perforated Coolcore® Visor</p>  <p>\$31.00</p>

**Please note this is not an order form. Please place your order at this website:**

<https://parsonscollege.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

**Thank you**

Questions about the order?

Doug DeKock

614.673.6779

[swimsports@mabaska.org](mailto:swimsports@mabaska.org)

Powered by OrderMyGear





# Parsons College Golden Jubilee Reunion October 6–8, 2003

**PLEASE read! IMPORTANT information about the registration**

Please complete the registration form (next page)!

**Hotels** - you are responsible for making hotel reservations, some options are listed below. You can get to the website by clicking on the link. We have a special price at the AmericInn and Super 8, please mention PC when booking:

[The AmericInn by Wyndham in Fairfield](#)  
[Super 8 by Wyndham, Fairfield](#)

[Rukmapura Park Hotel and Chalet, Fairfield](#)  
[VRBO](#) has homes for rent nearby.

Mount Pleasant is 28 minutes away, Batavia is 17 minutes away and Ottumwa is 30 minutes away. In case you wait too long!

We tried to keep the costs down; since we are no longer a college with financial backing, all prices include a \$10.00 charge to cover the cost of the facility rental, audio video equipment, and other expenses related to the cost of putting on the event. Donations are always welcome to help defray the cost of the weekend and they are tax deductible by making your donation **payable to Carnegie Historical Museum Foundation**. All donations will go to the Parsons College Alumni Association. Donations may be sent in the same envelope as your registration.

Please return the registration form on the next page, even if you can't join us so we have your updated contact information to:

**Parsons College Alumni Association**  
Attn: Joe Hartman  
2778 Deer Valley Dr NW  
Swisher, IA 52338

**Meal options (those meals in red you will need to make your selection and put it on the registration form):**

**Friday night Appetizers -**

Bacon Wrapped Asparagus  
Fig & Goat Cheese Bites (Truffle Honey, Herb Crackers)  
Chicken Yakitori, (Grilled Marinated Chicken Skewers)

**Brunch - Choice 1**

Seasonal Quiche ( Mushroom, asparagus, leek)  
Quiche, roasted onions & potatoes

**Brunch - Choice 2**

Belgian Waffle  
(Bourbon Maple Syrup)  
Seasonal Fruit Salad

**Dinner - Choice 1**

Butternut Squash Ravioli (Brown butter sage sauce)  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Fall House Salad  
Fall Apple Crisp

**Dinner Choice 2**

Chicken Piccata (Lemon Butter Sauce,  
Capers, Fresh Parsley)  
Linguine  
Fall House Salad  
Fall Apple Crisp

**Please check the option you wish to have for Brunch and for Dinner on Saturday. Thank you!**



# Parsons College Alumni Golden Jubilee Reunion October 6-8, 2023

## Registration Form

Please return the form and check payable to PCAA to: PCAA,, 2778 Deer Valley Dr NW, Swisher, IA 52338 by August 1, 2023. Thank you

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Please complete the following for each guest so we know how to prepare your nametag:

**Guest #1 Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Guest #1 Year** \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Name Maiden Name Last Name*

**Guest #2 Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Guest #2 Year** \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Name Maiden Name Last Name*

### Activities you wish to attend:

Since we are no longer a college with financial backing all prices include a \$10.00 facilities rental, audio video equipment, and other expenses related to the cost of putting on the event.

		<b># Attending</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Friday, October 6, 2023 Professors and Staff Reception</b>	<b>\$40/per person</b>	_____	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Saturday, October 7, 2023 Brunch</b> <input type="radio"/> <b>Option 1</b> <input type="radio"/> <b>Option 2</b>	<b>\$50.00/per person</b>	_____	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Saturday, October 7, 2023 Dinner</b> <input type="radio"/> <b>Option 1</b> <input type="radio"/> <b>Option 2</b>	<b>\$60/per person</b>	_____	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>No we can't attend</b>		_____	

**Total Amount for the REUNION enclosed: Please make check payable to Parsons College Alumni Association (PCAA)**

**\$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: PCAA Reunion, Attn: Joe Hartman, 2778 Deer Valley Dr NW, Swisher, IA 52338

Enclosed is my donation to help defray the costs of the weekend (**Tax deductible but to get the tax deduction a separate check needs to be made payable to: Carnegie Historical Museum Foundation (it will go to the PCAA)**) include with your registration check. Thank you **\$** \_\_\_\_\_