



Parsons College E-News

Volume 4, No. 3

Fall 2011

Wall of Honor Welcomes Class of 2011



Billings '63



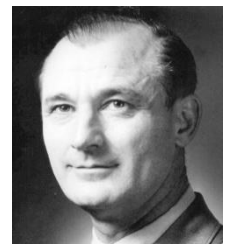
Glotfelty '48



Long '58



Reece '64



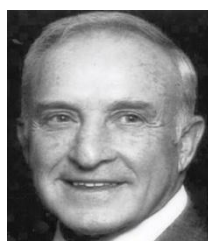
Reed '42



Nakashima-Schneck '46



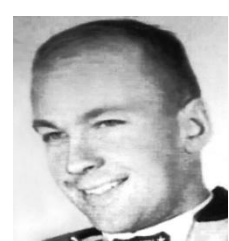
Smith '67



Spencer '57



Stiller '67



Timmerman '63-'65

In a most outstanding and moving ceremony the Parsons College Wall of Honor Class of 2011 took their places on the wall of Alumni Hall at the 3rd Annual Wall of Honor celebration Saturday, October 8, 2011 at the Stephen Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts in the Fairfield Arts and Convention Center.

Another distinguished class of 10 Parsons Students/Alumni were presented to an enthusiastic crowd of over 100 family members and friends.

Parsons College Foundation President Dave Neff opened the program and introduced previous Wall of Honor inductees, Bob Gamrath, Lee Gobble and special guests. Mayor Ed Malloy welcomed everyone to Fairfield and each inductee was then introduced by a presenter and presented their

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plaques by Dr. Bob Tree. Following the presentations of honorees, a Barhydt organ recital was performed by Werner Elmker, the alma mater was sung, and the plaques were unveiled in Alumni Hall. A luncheon followed at the Fairfield Country Club. Let us introduce this year's Class of 2011 honorees:

Doug Billings '63, the first inductee, was presented by Mike Gilpin. Doug, who now lives in Murrells Inlet, NC, enjoyed an outstanding career as an executive and entrepreneur in the hotel and hospitality industry, primarily with the Holiday Inn Corporation, both nationally and worldwide.

He started his own company which purchased hotel property and products for investment groups worldwide.

At Parsons, Doug was a president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, the Inter-Fraternity Council, and worked for the college for a brief time. Doug has a history of becoming involved in his community and was the youngest person ever to be appointed Commissioner of the Iowa Development Commission. He firmly states that, he "loves the thrill of the deal," and has no plans to retire...



Doug Billings Wall of Honor acceptance speech.

John Glotfelty '48 was told he was too young for Medical School after graduating from Fairfield High and Parsons. After graduating from both of those schools in three years each, John continued to plod forward and was not to be deterred.

When finally accepted at the Louisville School of Medicine, he simply ranked #1 in his class all four years.

John became a medical doctor and worked for the U.S. Public Health Service. He is highly regarded in the field of ophthalmology. John has served as officer and board member on numerous medical-related professional organizations and also was appointed to the State Board of Medicine by the governor of Florida.

John also served as a colonel in the Iowa National Guard. He was presented by his son Bob Glotfelty...

George Long '58 lives in Urbandale, IA. After graduating from Parsons where he was a member of Zeta/Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, he received state and national recognition as a teacher, coach and athletic director.

George was named Iowa and Central Region Athletic Director of the Year and National Athletic Director of the Year. He was chairman of the National Boosters Club, and was named National Booster of the Year.

In 1982, George was named Urbandale Citizen of the Year. He was presented to the Wall of Honor by longtime friend Lee Kane...

Richard Reece '64, who was presented to the gathering by his wife, Joan, lives in Marina Del Rey, CA. Richard became a national and internationally acclaimed real estate educator/executive and president of Appraisers, LLC. He founded the Russian Society of Appraisers.

(Continued Page 3)

(Wall of Honor cont'd)

The International Real Estate Educators Association named Richard Educator of the Year, and he served as national president of the Association of Master Appraisers.



Richard Reece addresses Wall of Honor audience.

At Parsons, Richard founded Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and was the Parsons Outstanding Graduating Senior in 1964. Over the weekend, he was also presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the PKA National which was given to him by those of his fraternity brothers in attendance...

Charles Reed '42 graduated from Parsons College summa cum laude. He was a meteorologist-base weather and typhoon officer. Charles was assistant executive director of the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research and executive director/program officer for the National Academy of Science.

Over his career he received a number of awards including, the Legion of Merit, the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal-First Oak Leaf Cluster, and the National Academy of Science's Distinguished Service Award.

The late Charles Reed was presented by his daughter Lynda Reed Leech.

Ida Nakashima Schneck '46 lives in Greenwood Village, CO and was presented by her dear friend Dorothy Bell of Fairfield. Ida overcame great adversity to get to Parsons. She, as were all people of Japanese ancestry, was incarcerated in special camps during World War II. Working through several sources, fortunately, she was allowed to leave to attend college.

After graduating Parsons, she continued her education and became a doctor of medicine. She also earned certification as a pediatrician and specialized in adolescent medicine. Ida retired in 1992 then taught at the University of Colorado Medical School.

She is now a volunteer who reads medical and scientific material for students who are blind or dyslexic at The Learning Center. Ida is a member of the American Medical Women's Association and the Society of Adolescent Medicine.

(Continued Page 4)

Parsons is Alive - Spread the Word!

*Your e-news wants to reach as many Parsons Alums and friends as possible – **YOU CAN HELP!!** We request that you send a copy of this e-newsletter to at least five people and/or pass along five names with email addresses to Nancy Wirtanen at nwirtanen@yahoo.com.*

*Also, the distribution list is increasing dramatically. So that you may continue to receive the e-news, **PLEASE** keep your email address current and advise us of any changes. Thanks for your anticipated cooperation!!!!*

(Wall of Honor cont'd)



A number of inductees of the Class of 2011 and plaque recipients gather at the Wall of Honor following the unveiling. L/R: Lynda Reed Leech, Doug Billings, John Gtofely, Bob Spencer, Richard Reece, George Long and Marcia Timmerman...

Steven Smith '67 lives in Alexandria, IN and he was presented to the Wall of Honor by his brother Paul.

At Parsons he was vice president of his graduating class, homecoming chairman, served on the inter-fraternity council and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.

After Parsons and earning a masters degree at Ball State University, Steve served as director of admission, vice president, president and legal council for the Cabrillo Pacific University before entering the legal profession. He became a public defender in the juvenile courts.

Steve now serves as president of the Community Center and is an active leader in the development of young people in his town...

Bob Spencer '57 resides in Des Moines, IA and was presented by long-time friend Dave Neff. After leaving Parsons, Bob became a pioneer and visionary in the promotion of NCAA Women's Sports. As a basketball coach he accumulated 660 wins during his 34-year career. Bob mentored the Parsons Wild-Kittens basketball team until the college closed

in 1973. He then went on to coach at Fresno State where he became the winningest coach in the history of the school. He was awarded the Jostens-Berenson Service Award by WBCA recognizing his lasting legacy.

At Parsons he was a member of the Zeta/Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity before embarking on his teaching/coaching career which also included a stop at John F. Kennedy College, a Parsons satellite school. A WBCA executive saluted Bob, saying, "His tireless dedication to not only women's basketball, but to women's sports in general, is second to none!!"

Robert Stiller '67 is now retired and splits time between homes in Palm Beach, FL and Waterbury, VT. The experience of a wonderful cup of coffee in a Vermont ski lodge led to the purchase of a small company and establishment of a billion dollar coffee outlet empire.

Bob, who was ably presented by John Braidwood, is the founder of Green Mountain Coffee Roaster. In 2001, he was named Forbes Magazine entrepreneur of the year and the company ranked 16th on their list of 200 best small companies. Recently Forbes announced Bob has been added to their list of 400 Wealthiest Americans.

He leads the Stiller Foundation, a non-profit organization aimed at educating and supporting initiatives to bring people out of poverty. Bob continues to oversee the GMCR as CEO of the board of directors and is a certified meditation instructor. While at Parsons, he earned degrees in accounting, mathematics and business administration...

(Continued Page 5)

Wall of Honor Nominations

The nomination period for the Wall of Honor's Class of 2012 will open on December 1, 2011 and will close on March 1, 2012. If you wish to submit a nomination, please obtain a nomination form by contacting Dave Neff at: neffacres@lisco.com or Nancy Wirtanen at: nwirtanen@yahoo.com

(Wall of Honor cont'd)

Gene Timmerman '63-'65 was a man amongst men. He was a local kid from Fairfield who excelled at sports and received a scholarship to play football at Parsons. Gene attended the college the better part of three years, was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and founded the Sharpchuters skydiving team.



Jeff Mazur complements his presentation of the late Gene Timmerman to the Wall of Honor with a well done slide show of Timmerman doing his thing - SKYDIVING...

His love for skydiving led him to a distinguished career in the U.S. Army, where not surprisingly, Gene ended up with the 101st Airborne Division. He served honorably in Vietnam, and received the Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal. Following Vietnam, Gene continued his military career and earned membership to the 'Golden Knights,' the U.S. Army's elite parachute team.

He followed up his days in the service with an outstanding career in sales with several food chains. Gene, whose untimely passing was believed to be related to "agent orange," was presented to the Wall of Honor by Parsons friend Jeff Mazur and his plaque accepted by his widow, Marcia and children, Brent and Brittany...

Next Issue - Winter 2011
News Deadline is December 1, 2011

Your news and photographs WANTED for future Issues.
Please submit as a JPEG and provide information about the photo.

If you need help contact Nancy Wirtanen
nwirtanen@yahoo.com

Getting a new email address?
Please be sure to send any changes to
Nancy Wirtanen
and you won't miss an issue!

PARSONS COLLEGE WALL OF HONOR MEMBERS

Class of 2009

West Bartlett '38
Lee Gobble '37
Rhine McLin '69
O. B. Nelson '46
Allen Paul '67
Edward Rogalski '65
Robert Scott III '63
Marcia Wallace '64
Verle Whittington '52

Class of 2010

Roger Bachman '67
Dean Gabbert '46
Bob Gamrath '38-'42
"Biff" Kummer '68
Richard Lawson '51
Roger Nielsen '56
Willard Pedrick '36
Larry Spencer '62
Susan Fulton Welty '26
Louis Wilson '64

(More Wall of Honor Page 6)

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 neffacres@lisco.com



At approximately 11:55 A.M. on Saturday, October 8, 2011, the drape was pulled and the plaques of the Wall of Honor were unveiled with the addition of the Class of 2011. The tradition, introduced by the Parsons College Foundation and supported by the Parsons College Alumni Association, began in 2009. The program has been a smashing success and the Wall of Honor now includes 29 distinguished Parsons Student/Alumni.

Lee Gobble Rallies to Attend Wall of Honor Ceremony & Luncheon

While attending the Wall of Honor Ceremony in Fairfield, e-news editor John Blackstock stopped by the SunnyBrook Assisted Living Center to visit Lee Gobble. John reported that Mr. Gobble, who, with a some assistance and a walker, attended both the ceremony and luncheon Saturday, appeared a little frail but looked good. He was very alert, and mentally sharp.

The attendants told John that the primary issues of concern regarding the 96-year-old “haberdasher emeritus” relate to the number of falls he’s taken recently.

Mr. Gobble is a member of the Wall of Honor and he touched nearly each and every Parsons student during his day, as either a landlord, employer, or supplier of fashions.

John presented Mr. Gobble with a “We’re Thinking of You” card from he, and a number of Lee’s Parsons friends. When asked if he had any words for his many Parsons admirers, Lee said, “Yes, tell them this turkey ain’t done yet!”

If you would like to join the bandwagon of well-wishers and send Mr. Gobble a card, or note, he would love to hear from you. His address is: Mr. Lee Gobble, c/o SunnyBrook of Fairfield, 3000 W. Madison Avenue, Unit #505, Fairfield, Iowa 52556



Mr. Lee Gobble is presented a card from e-news’ John Blackstock at the SunnyBrook Assisted Living Center while visiting Fairfield over the 3rd Annual Wall of Honor Ceremony weekend.

SPOTLIGHT... Thom Giuntoli '63...

Thom Giuntoli left Fairfield with a degree, his college sweetheart who he married shortly after, and a clear path to theological studies at Dubuque Theological Seminary. He was awarded a Masters of Divinity Degree and ordained as a minister in the United Presbyterian Church in 1967. Over the next few years, Thom served as pastor of a small church in Warsaw, IL and as Associate Minister at a Presbyterian Church in Washington, IA.

For years he toyed with the idea of becoming a Navy Chaplain and then went onto make it happen. In 1974, he made Navy Chaplain and was commissioned a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Navy Chaplain Corps.



Thom Giuntoli

Thom's first tour of duty took him to Camp LeJuene, N.C. and the 2nd Marine Division. Shortly after, he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and selected to attend Naval Post Graduate School. Thom was given a choice and selected Princeton Theological Seminary and went onto his Doctoral Studies in the area of Pastoral Counseling and Care.

After several tours through South Carolina, he landed at Parris Island and became the Assistant Chief of Staff for Religious Ministries and supervised 14 chaplains, and 33 enlisted persons, as well as serving on the Commanding General Staff. It was there Thom formalized his "servant leadership" skills, essentially meaning that the leader isn't afraid to dig in and assist the subordinates.

Thom continued his move up the ladder and was promoted to captain, and was nominated to become the United States Sixth Fleet Chaplain in Gaeta, Italy. At Sixth Fleet his team of chaplains serviced all Naval vessels and personnel within the Mediterranean area.

One of the most interesting aspects of this duty was taking over 1700 sailors and marines to midnight mass at the Vatican each Christmas. And also, developing a relationship and exchange program with the Commandant of the Swiss Guard, which was founded in 1506 and remains the oldest active military in the world.

Following Italy and several other assignments, Thom was hoping to remain at home in the states. But the Navy surprised him again with a nomination to become fleet chaplain for the commander and chief, United States Naval Forces Europe in London, England. In this position, Thom became the principal adviser on matters of religion, ethics, and morals. He coordinated religious support for more than 90,000 U.S. military personnel and families in his area of responsibility.

Thom says those duties were the most challenging of his Naval career. "I supervised and mentored 57 chaplains and 80 enlisted personnel throughout Europe and those chaplains serving on ships in the Mediterranean. Additionally, I provided chaplains to the Balkans during our involvement in Bosnia and Kosovo," he said.

(Continued Page 8)

Next E-News Deadline - December 1, 2011

Now considered the chief of chaplains in Europe, this afforded the opportunity to interact with the chaplain corps of a large number of other European countries. We also worked with European military leaders to help further develop their roles of leadership, and convince them to view their chaplains as a crucial part of their command, and not just someone to be used on Sunday morning for chapel and aiding problem soldiers.

Finally, Thom came full circle with his last tour of duty as group chaplain for 2nd FSSG and returned to where it all began, Camp Lejuene, N.C.. In 2003, his command was sent to Kuwait and then onto Iraq. Later that year, after 30 years in the U.S. Navy, Thom retired. He and his wife (Betsy Anne Enyedi) returned to South Carolina and are enjoying retirement.

Looking back, Thom said, "As I reflect, I owe our dear college - Parsons - a debt of gratitude - for it was there that I got my second chance to a college education and (realized) the desire (I had) to contribute to our great Nation."

The Alumni Write.... A Final Goodbye to a Best Friend...

(The following writing is by Hank Trenkle '66 and a Tribute to his Best Friend...)

I have always hated goodbyes. Some are easier than others. I do not like to drag them out. I prefer to just say goodbye and leave it at that. Drawn out goodbyes are painful. A second round of goodbyes moments later seem less genuine. For this reason, I sometimes go out of my way to avoid another after the initial goodbye has been said. The worst goodbyes are the ones that are forever - the kind where you know you will never see that person again. These goodbyes can be titled "the forever goodbyes."

A short time ago I said goodbye to one the best friends I've ever had. We met at Parsons over 50 years ago. Over the years we vacationed together with our wives and by ourselves. We'd met in various cities to watch baseball games, go to movies and just "hang out." We returned to Fairfield many times to see old friends, walked the streets, and reminisced about those great days at Parsons. My friend Andy Bry-Nildsen PC'65 and I were close. Andy and I were so close, both in spirit and through our long association. I named my only son after Andy.

I called my friend several months ago, just a few hours after the doctors said there was nothing more they could do for him. Andy had cancer and they told him he had two weeks to two months to live. I told him, "Andy, I haven't given up hope and don't you give up either." He replied, "I haven't given up, but I need a break." Shortly thereafter, I visited him in the Cancer Center at Penn State University. His family, friends and I were by his side. On the last day of my visit it was evident Andy was fading. He had been in a coma for 24 hours.

I approached his bed and stated, "Andy, you are the best friend I've ever had. I love you, we all love you." Miraculously, he opened his eyes, looked at me, smiled, and then his eyes closed. It was then "I lost it." I started crying, hugged his wife, his daughter, and left the room to catch a plane home. The tears flowed freely. I had just said goodbye to a wonderful person, my best friend, and I would never see him again. Andy died peacefully in his sleep a few days later. I traveled back to his Pennsylvania town to pay one final visit and to serve as a pallbearer at his funeral. (*see Memoriam - Bry-Nildsen*)...

Remember When... with Doug Marion '70...

FAIRFIELD GOLDEN BOY / MOTORSPORTS TV CELEBRITY

Graduating in FHS Class of 1964, Dave Despain took a liking to Fairfield's local radio station and put in his time there to good use. A motorsports fan like many, during the summer, Despain headed down to Kahoka, Missouri every Saturday night with friends to watch the 1/8th-mile drag races. One thing led to another and he was asked to do some motorcycle commentary for cable television. When high-speed, motorcycle road racing went big time a few decades ago, Dave got the call to enunciate the action and then later another call to do interviews and action highlights. Most of you have seen Dave on television – but we doubt you remember he was one of Fairfield's golden sons. He presently lives in the Atlanta.



George 's Pizza Shop was arguably the best pizza parlor in town. George (left) was a character, popular with Parsons students and loved to play cards when not making pizza pies...

GEORGE THE PIZZA MAN

George's Pizza opened on the southwest side of the square in the early '60's and was an immediate success. We sometimes wonder how many pizzas were consumed on a daily basis by PC students. We estimate "50". For how many days of the year? How about 300. That's 15,000 pizzas a year. At \$5.00 each that's \$75,000/gross.

Speaking of pizza, don't forget Pizza Hut, founded in 1958 by two college brothers at Wichita State. Today it's said to be the most popular pizza franchise in the USA. We find it remarkable how Pizza Hut was in Fairfield by 1962. Do you remember the first time you walked in, sat down, and ordered? There are lots of great pizza parlors coast to coast but a favorite for many is still a Pizza Hut "Veggie".

A FAIRFIELD FRIEND AT THE IOWA HIGHWAY PATROL

This is a true story. One weekend afternoon in the summer of '64, I was testing the traction capabilities of the rear tires on my 409 Chevy in the Lambda Chi Alpha parking lot. With friends and performance buffs from the nearby Sigma Pi, Phi Sig and Sig Ep fraternities enjoying the scene, a Iowa Highway Patrol officer unexpectedly appeared on the scene. He was a handsome man and genuinely impressed with the Chevy, but sadly, he noted it violated the civil codes of the times. He then proceeded to graciously make us an offer we could not refuse: One, we could commit to meeting the next four Sunday mornings at the Family Café (next door to the Fairfield Police Station and below it too) and I would be required to buy breakfast. Or two, be issued a citation. The choice was easy. What was the catch? Well, this IHP officer's job assignment was teaching and promoting "High School Driver Education Awareness." In his possession, he had multiple notebooks full of graphic 8x10 photos of deceased car accident victims dating back decades. At our gatherings, he would explain the cause of each accident. If they weren't alcohol-related, most were a result of stupidity and/or recklessness. I mentally absorbed every graphic photo. That was 47 years ago. Did the IHP officer make an impression? Well, I can only say, I do not drink, have never caused or been in an accident, and never even filed an insurance claim. The answer: Yes! We hope to find someone in Fairfield law enforcement who remembers this officer. I would love to reconnect and buy him breakfast (or lunch, or dinner) one more time, or two, or three, or four...

Greek & Social Club News...

The Pikes...



Members of Pi Kappa Alpha gather at the Fairfield Country Club to celebrate the induction of Richard Reece to the Parsons Wall of Honor. Richard also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Pikes National Office. Joining the celebration are: (Standing L/R) Ron Musfeldt, Jay Nelson, Rich Tallin, and Bob Rectenwald; Sitting L/R: Reece, Craig Spicer and David Oswald...

The Sig Eps...



In what developed into a mini reunion, a number of the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon salute Doug Billings on his induction onto the Parsons Wall of Honor at the Fairfield Golf & Country Club. Doug is surrounded by: (Sitting L/R) Hobie Bannister, Charles "Butch" Downey, Billings, Mike Gilpin; Standing L/R David Neff and Jim Cornick. The Sig Eps meet annually and reunion in various parts of the country...

Pikes & Sig Eps Travel Back to Fairfield to Honor Brothers

The members of Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternities, along with the Parsons Sharpchuters led a parade of Students/Alumni back to Fairfield for the 3rd Annual Wall of Honor Weekend. Clyde Campbell represented the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity which also had two honorees inducted, Steven Smith and Gene Timmerman (posthumously). Interestingly, former Sharpchuters Jeff Mazur, with assistance from Dave Ferling from afar, hooked up, and introduced the Skype broadcasting process to the program. The Skype hookup allowed those unable to attend to have the opportunity to dial-in and view the WOH ceremony on-line in its' entirety from their homes. Mazur also put together a slide show on Timmerman, which complemented his presentation nicely. The Parsons College Foundation plans to explore the use of Skype (www.skype.com) along with some other options and to have the complete WOH ceremony added to the PCAA website for viewing (www.parsonscollegealumni.com).

Parsons Alumni Association Board of Directors

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My Road to Parsons... Lloyd Jerome '51

MY ROAD TO PARSONS... I graduated from Centerville High School in 1945 and received a scholarship to attend the University of Iowa. After being there a few weeks, I walked into a room with over a thousand freshmen. I said, this is not the place for me and went home. Shortly thereafter, I attended a junior college basketball game, was invited to play basketball, and ended up enrolling and spending two years in junior college. I drove a school bus to pay my tuition.

Over the next year between driving a bus, teaching, and serving in the Iowa National Guard, I earned enough money to finish my last two years and get a degree. In the National Guard, there were seven of us, O.B. Nelson was our platoon leader, and the company commander was Captain Bob Gamrath. One time during inspection a funny thing happened. We did not have our winter uniforms for inspection, so O.B. had us wear our summer outfits and placed us in the back row. When the inspector came to our row, he asked O.B. who we were. O.B., who had been drinking, said, "These are my African Corps."



During the 1950's and 1960's the freshmen girls Pajama Races and Parade were an event to behold.

In 1949 I chose Parsons because several of my family members were there. I arrived that fall, decided to play football, and lived in the Zeta (Sigma Phi Epsilon) fraternity house. I remember the homecoming bonfire vividly. The freshmen girls had to wear their PJ's and be kissed by members of the football team. At Halloween time we went on hayrides, did hot apple cider and donuts, and had snowball fights. In the spring it was campus cleanup time and the entire student body participated. Fraternity "Hell Week" was something else - the male pledges couldn't talk to the female pledges and visa verse.

As a senior, I knew more people and was a starter on the football team which went 6-0 until the last two games. At football practice one day, O.B., who liked to get involved in the scrimmages showed up wearing an old leather football helmet. Someone hit him on the head, his head swelled, and it took several of us to pry the helmet off his head. Needless to say, we were required to run a few extra laps around the field that day. The basketball team also was coached by O.B. Nelson, the best coach I ever had. We won the South Conference but lost the championship game.

I liked most of my professors but got a scare at graduation time when they told me I would not graduate. Seems as though they slipped a mathematics requirement in on me. With the help of Tib Young and summer school, I graduated. I also taught swimming which helped with tuition and ended up having two great years at Parsons. In the evenings we used to go to the "Why Not Tavern," drink beer and sometimes pool our money to buy quarts of beer. I also delivered bakery goods to several locations. I was up at 4 AM and delivering through rain, sleet and snow.

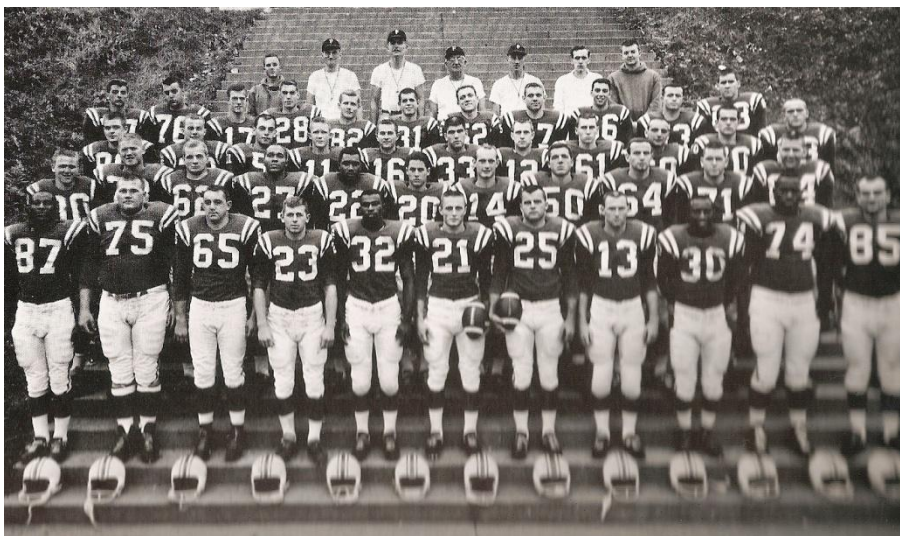
I've lived in western Iowa for most of my years and never heard much about Parsons except when it was closing its doors. I wish I had known about the homecomings and activities that followed. But in 2010, while surfing the internet, I came across the website for the Parsons College Alumni Association. I joined immediately, attended the 2010 reunion and have contacted a few classmates. In my opinion, the PCAA has helped many students reconnect with one another. I encourage all of you to join and do the same...

DIGGING UP THE PAST... "Parsons and the NFL"

Parsons College suited up and fielded football teams from 1893 to 1971. This year (2011) marks the 50th anniversary of one of the finest of those football teams to take the field during the illustrious history of Parsons. Yes, the 1961 Parsons Wildcat gridders made their mark in the state of Iowa, the Iowa Conference and in the national N.A.I.A. rankings.

Coached by Gary Nady, the Wildcats went undefeated in conference play at 9-0, won the Iowa Conference, and ranked 10th in the nation (6th on defense). They were invited to the Mineral Water Bowl in Excelsior Springs, MO where they lost a tough one to Northeast Missouri State. A number of players on that team won Conference honors and were so highly touted they attracted attention from the scouts of a number of NFL teams.

The 1961 Wildcats – 50 Years Ago - Ranked #10 in the Nation



The late Lou Wilson was pursued by the Minnesota Vikings and spent several years on their taxi squad. Monty Versteeg, who held the distinction of being the biggest college football player in the country during that era, was invited to the Chicago Bears training camp for a tryout. And place-kicker Jimmy Ostrander has never lost the letter he received from Vince Lombardi inviting him to the Green Bay Packers training camp.

But perhaps the most illustrious of the Parsons football players to get a brush with the big time NFL was running back Nathaniel Craddock. Nat was a 220-lbs running back from Des Moines, IA. Big # 27 ran over and through all obstacles. Some say that if there was a downside to Nat Craddock, it was his eyesight, which resulted in his difficulty gathering in the short passes out of the backfield.

But nevertheless, Nat was drafted by the (then) Boston Patriots in the 22nd round of the AFL draft. Unverified sources of information tell us he made it through camp until the final cut. From there he went onto the Canadian Football League and played for the Montreal Alouettes for several years.

(Continued Page 13)

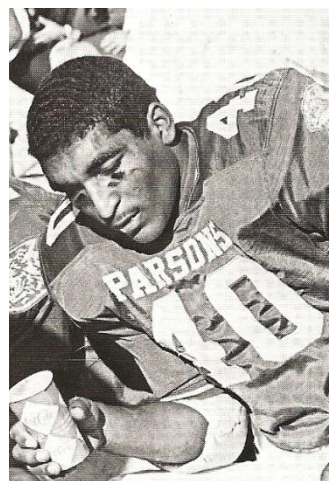
Upon his return to the states and working his way through some red tape issues related to the draft, Nat ended up with the Baltimore Colts. Although he only made appearances in several games, he is listed in the NFL players encyclopedia. It should be noted, while with the Colts his teammates included the likes of Johnny Unitas, Lenny Moore, and Big Daddy Lipscomb.



Nat Craddock '62



Frank Antonini '68



Allen Marcelin '68

Amazingly, Parsons College was a target on the hit-list of colleges for NFL scouts to shop for talent in the 1960's and early 1970's. The visits were productive, and a number of Wildcats gridders were selected in the draft over those years. However, in addition to Craddock, our e-news research uncovered only one other of the Parsons draftees who made an NFL team and appear in a regular season game.

Bruce Cortez, PC'66, a defensive back, was that draftee. He was drafted in the 16th round by the New Orleans, made the team, and wore # 47 for the Saints.

Others that we were able to confirm being drafted to the NFL, in no particular order were, Frank Antonini, PC'68, a running back, who was taken in the 17th round by the Philadelphia Eagles; Allen Marcelin, PC'68, a wingback/defensive back, was drafted 10th that same year by the Los Angeles Rams; Jim McKoy, PC'70, a running back, was selected by the Denver Broncos in the 13th round of the 1970 draft; and John Lanier, PC'70, another halfback, was an 11th round pick by the Green Bay Packers in 1971.

Two other former Parsons affiliates, who didn't make it to the NFL spotlight on the field, went on to post prominent coaching careers on the sidelines. Frank Falks PC'67 played and coached at Parsons and worked through a number of college programs prior to becoming a tight ends/running backs coach with the San Diego Chargers, Detroit Lions and St. Louis Rams.

Marv Braden came from Southwest Missouri State and University of Missouri. He did not attend Parsons but launched his coaching career with the Wildcats before moving on to coaching special teams with Denver, San Diego, the St. Louis and Phoenix Cardinals, and Cincinnati Bengals.

Clearly, Parsons College was a Mecca for small college football and was headed to the big time during the mid-late 1960's, just as it was in so many other sports and areas of education. We can now only imagine, and fathom a guess at that fabled question, that haunting, and lingering question that we know will be repeated BUT never answered...."WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN?????"

The Mystery Quiz???

WHERE Are These People??? The Question Is...



FALL QUIZ QUESTION: Yes, summer is over but can you name this park and nearby watering hole? This locale was the most popular of three parks in the metro Fairfield area, one to the north, one to the south, and one to the east. Name the three parks. The answer will appear in the winter issue of e-news.

WHO Are These People??? The Answer Is...



SUMMER QUIZ ANSWER: Who are these people? Well, if you guessed the happy gang from Gobble's Store you were right on! Mr. Haberdasher Emeritus, Lee Gobble, is standing on the left looking as dapper as ever, while orchestrating another great day at Gobble's Store. Assisting Lee and his gang of revelers is another famous Fairfield icon, 'Parsons Bill' (Bill LaRue, front right)...

Letters-To-The-Editor...

A couple of us Parsons alums were talking recently and wondering if anyone knows whatever happened to Richard "Mini" Leffler? He worked in the student housing office while a student during the 1960's...

Kevin Duffly, PC'70 - KDuff48@aol.com

Thanks!!! Great publication!!!

Tom Grooms, PC'56-'60 - TBoxster6@aol.com

Hooray!!! Gene (Timmerman) made it to the Parsons College Wall of Honor!!! I'm so glad because we put a lot of work into that, and besides, he more than deserved the honor. I only wish he was here today!! Also, (correction) it's "Sharpchuters." Thanks.

Dave Ferling, PC'63-'68 - drferling@earthlink.net

Thank you so much, I really enjoyed this e-news!

David Gill, PC'65-'70 - david@lightsuparizona.com



Great job with newsletter as always. One comment regarding (Digging Up The Past) the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Famers. Bo Didley performed at the Saturday night dance of "Spring Fling" 1964, not Greek Week. I was in charge of booking the Spring Fling talent that year. And on Friday night (of that weekend) we had the "Rooftop Singers" ("Walk Right In, Sit Right Down") and Herbie Mann ("Comin' Home Baby,"). Bo Didley and his band, which unbeknownst to many, included his sister, "Baby Doll" Didley, put on quite a show. It was a fun weekend featuring a total variety of music - folk, jazz and rock 'n roll...

Mike Paul, PC'64 - mjpaul1@comcast.net

We Need Your News!

Great job and thanks for all you do. I know the effort you put into this because I do the same thing with my high school class of 1963. So I appreciate it tremendously. Again, thank you and keep them coming.

Vic Triolo, PC'65-'67 - Banginbass@optonline.net

I found the newsletter and read it completely. It's so good to bring back that magical time of our lives. Thanks again for another wonderful, informative newsletter.

Patricia Kurka Wehr, PC'61-'66 - pwehr@bellsouth.net

Congrats!! The Summer PC Newsletter is masterful, the best yet! How fortunate we are that you all continue publishing this PC Newsletter. I'm proud to report that the Sig Pi's (fraternity) will be "reveling" again in Myrtle Beach, SC for our 12th Gamma-Zeta Chapter Alumni Reunion on September 11, 2011...

Calvin Hill, PC'68 - calvinhill2000@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: Your fraternity/club reunion info is exactly the information we're looking to include in the Greek & Social Club news section of e-news. We'll be more than happy to publish any reunion/social gathering announcements, and we encourage you to send written recaps of those events along with photos...

Great job on the newsletter!!

Bob Solheim, PC'64-'65 - RJSolheim@charter.net

In the interest of historical accuracy, the Parsons Skydiving team name was spelled "Sharpchuters" not "Sharpshooters" as printed in your latest issue of the Parsons e-newsletter which, by the way, is fabulous! Would hate to see Mr. (Gene) Timmerman inducted to the Wall of Honor with errors in the write-up. Gene Timmerman trained me to skydive in 1965 and I continue to do so to this day. I still run into some of the old (Parsons) dudes at jump meets, who used to do jump exhibitions into Blum Stadium back in the day.

Joe Hartman, PC'n/a - joe.hartman@schneider-electric.com

Editor's Note: Rest assured Joe, and the rest of you Parsons skydivers, "Sharpchuters" is IN and "Sharpshooters" is OUT!!

(Continued Page 16)

There were two '66 Peira Yearbooks??? That's very interesting. I have the thin one (96 pages). Do you think some of the Parsons negatives were preserved and perhaps the University of Iowa still has them? (I believe) there was a photograph of Meredith James, Parsons Homecoming Queen in 1966, riding atop an elephant at the halftime of the Pecan Bowl football game in Abilene, TX in 1966. But it could have been in the "Portfolio" newspaper (that I saw it). Apparently, Meredith was 1st runner-up for Pecan Bowl Queen...

Peter Willmott, PC'n/a – Blackwade@aol.com

Editor's Note: Although the University of Iowa is the caretaker of all of the Parsons records, we believe it highly unlikely that they have any of the Parsons Peira yearbooks in their possession. However, the Fairfield Public Library has just about every year but will not allow you to take out...

I just want to say thanks for another GREAT newsletter. You cannot imagine how much I/we enjoy receiving it. It could not be better and we just LOVE IT!!! I will be submitting some stuff soon.

Hank Trenkle, PC'66 – hatrenkle@yahoo.com



Courtesy of Dennis Marandos '69

We're Looking for Peira Yearbooks

The Parsons Alumni e-news is STILL looking for Peira yearbooks from the following years – 1955, 1966 (the BIG book), 1971, and 1973... Quite frequently we scan and print photos from various yearbooks and we would like to pull representation for the above mentioned years. If you can help fulfill this request, please contact e-news editor/publisher John Blackstock at 636-926-7881 or email jblackstock@prodigy.net. Special thanks to Kevin Duffy '70 for providing the 1969 Peira and to Bill Freeman '73 for stepping up with the 1972 Peira yearbook. THANK YOU!!!

Parsons College Alumni Website

Check out our **FREE 3-DAY** trial viewing of the Parsons College Alumni Association website at: www.parsonscollegealumni.com. It's a WINNER!!

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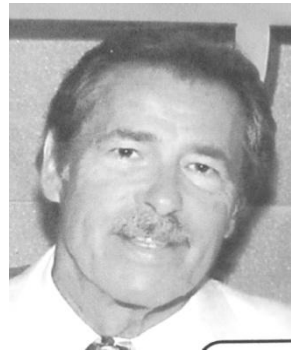
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Editor's Note: To submit Greek, social, or personal news, send your request to Nancy Wirtanen '73 at: nwirtanen@yahoo.com for consideration. E-news reserves the right to edit all material and downsize where necessary due to limited space. The Parsons College Alumni e-news is not affiliated with the Parsons College Newline or George Jordan III.

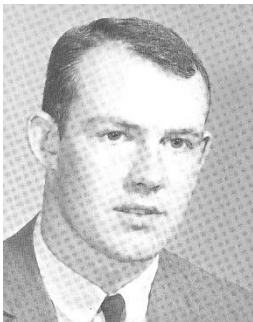
In Memoriam...

Andrew Bry-Nildsen, PC'n/a... Andy 68, of Spring Township, PA passed away peacefully April 4, 2011 at the Hershey Medical Center after a courageous two-year battle against Leukemia. Andy was born in Glen Ridge, NJ and also lived in Washington, NJ. He attended Parsons College in the early-mid-1960's. Andy is survived by his wife Jeraldine, two children, four step-children, 10 grandchildren, and a host of other relatives. He will be forever loved and missed, and his life lessons will be passed on through generations to come. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Ignatius Loyola R.C. Church in West Lawn, PA. (*See The Alumni Write – Tribute*)...



Andy Bry-Nildsen

Stephen D. Lapan, PC'62... passed away April 19, 2011, following a short illness from complications related to chronic pancreatitis. He was born in Aurora, IL and attended school in Galva, IL where he was an outstanding athlete. At Parsons College, Steve was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and a stalwart in intramural sports. He graduated from Parsons with an education degree and then taught school in the Roberts-Thawville and Elk Grove School Districts while completing his master's at the University of Illinois.



Steve Lapan

Shortly after becoming a consultant to the State of Illinois in gifted education and educational evaluation, Steve attended and graduated from the University of Connecticut with a PhD in educational psychology. He spent the next 13 years at Northeastern Illinois University in elementary and gifted education. Steve continued his work as a member of the Northern Arizona University staff and was coordinator of the Curriculum and Instruction doctorate. During his career he authored numerous articles and books.

Steve retired in May, 2010 as Professor Emeritus. He loved academic life, the challenge of providing support to students, while holding high standards of academic excellence. Perhaps that was a direct correlation to Parsons where there was major emphasis on team teaching and the tutorial programs. Steve was a resident of Sedona, AZ for more than 20 years and is survived by his wife, Pat Hays, and a host of relatives. A celebration of Steve's life was held on the Northern Arizona University campus and a memorial service was conducted in Illinois also..

(continued on page 18)

Joedd Miller, PC'67-'69... The Alumni e-news has just learned that the Reverend Joedd Miller of Phoenix, AZ died on April 5, 2009. He was 74. Joedd was a native of Clarinda, IA and attended Parsons from 1967-'69. He was a member of the "Where The Boys Are" (WTBA) social club. Prior to Parsons Joedd spent a year as an exchange student in India. Later as a Presbyterian minister he spent four years in Kenya. Joedd became an ordained minister in Clarinda and served the Trinity Presbyterian and Westminster Churches.



Joedd Miller

He moved onto Phoenix, AZ, met his wife Cecelia and became Presbyterian minister of Central Presbyterian Church for 27 years. Joedd championed civil rights, social justice, and worked to improve the lives of Native Americans. He and his wife of 39 years also owned a restaurant in the Phoenix area called "The Fry Bread House." Joedd was survived by his wife, seven children and three grandchildren. A memorial service was held in July of 2009 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Clarinda, IA...

Janet S. Sanders, PC'46-'49... Cedar Valley Daily Times reports that Janet Sanders, 82, of Vinton, IA passed away July 27, 2011, at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City. Janet was from Chicago, IL, graduated from Oak Park River Forest Township High School and attended Parsons College in 1946-1949. She was married to Paul Bomar and divorced, then later remarried Verle Sanders. Janet worked at as third grade teacher in Ft. Madison before starting a preschool there in 1953. She went onto New London, MO where she taught kindergarten.

Shortly after, Janet landed back in Vinton where she taught in the local school district for 29 years before retiring in 1993. She never stopped teaching, volunteered her time unselfishly, and became known to the students as, "Gram." Her later years were spent with the Presbyterian church, the local government, the Republican party, and the Palace Theater.

Janet was a member of the local country club, Iowa State, National and Vinton Education Associations and the Women's Club. In 1995 Janet "Gram" Sanders was named "Woman of the Year." She is survived by one son, one daughter and six grandchildren. Funeral and services were handled by Van Steenhuyse-Russell Funeral Home of Vinton. Condolences may be left at www.vsrhf.com.



Janet Sanders
