



January 2023

Parsons College News

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Parsons College Golden Jubilee Reunion October 6–8, 2023

You are not going to want to miss this!

Parsons alumni, faculty, staff, and guests will gather in Fairfield, Iowa to commemorate Parsons Legacy and the 50th anniversary of the closing of our alma mater. Come and reminisce the wonderful years we had at this place of higher learning!

The unveiling of the movie “Parsons” (page two) will happen during the reunion weekend.

The reunion committee is planning this weekend for us! Details will be in an upcoming PC News when everything is finalized; in the meantime you can make hotel reservations now at one of the following Fairfield hotels (If you know of other hotels in the area, please [email us](#)):

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

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

We have our reservations! I look forward to one more trip to Fairfield and meeting you, our readers!

Contact your roommates, fraternity/sorority friends and get a group together to meet one more time in Fairfield!

Note from the Editor

Welcome to the Parsons News! We are so excited that the PC News is back. We want to thank John Blackstock for publishing the e-news for so many years; it was true dedication!



We will publish a shorter newsletter every other month, so keep the news, memories, photos, and articles coming. Send submissions to the [editor's email](#) – Deadline for the March issue is 2.28.23.

Format Notes:

Names: First Name, Maiden Name, Last Name, PC' year you graduated/would have graduated (e.g., Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70). This will help the reader know when you were there.

Links to email and websites are clickable. All links are italicized and underlined.

Photos are worth a 1,000 words, please send PC photos, photos of YOU then and now. Please include names of those in the photos and the year of graduation/attendance!

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Addendum:
PCAA Board Application

Parsons College Alumni Board

Nancy Wirtanen PC'74 is the Parsons College Alumni Board President, she is also a founding member, and one of the two longest serving board members. I interviewed Nancy for the News.

Q: What years did you attend Parsons?

A. 1970 until it closed in 1973, then transferred to Simpson College where I finished in 1974.

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

The small class sizes, 1 to a room, and the helpfulness of the professors.

Q: Who was your favorite professor and why?

A. Cornell Clarke, I had a good connection with him.

Q: Where did you live while you were at Parsons?

A. Hibbard A, MacArthur, and H & W



Dean of Students
Cornell Clarke

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

A. Gettysburg, PA

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

A. Elementary teacher, I have taught everything from PreK -6 grade.

Q: Where do you live now?

A. Phoenix, AZ

Q: Why did you decide to join the Board and take on the presidency?

A. I started the Alumni Association back in 2007 with only 56 names in the directory. It has grown to 4,167 in 16 years.



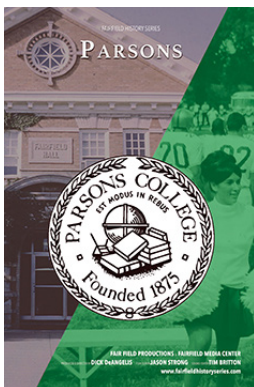
Nancy Wirtanen, President
Parsons Alumni Board

Do you
remember?



“Parsons” - the Movie! Premiering October 6-8, 2023

This reunion on October. 6-8, 2023 for Parsons College alumni, staff, faculty and their guests will feature the premiere screening of the film “Parsons” by Fairfield resident and award-winning filmmaker Dick DeAngelis. This film delves into the entire history of Parsons College; from beginning to end, the starts, the stops, the ups, the and downs of the ninety-eight year institution. It will include many comments and insights from former Parsons students and staff. The showings will coincide with the closing of Parsons College fifty years ago.



“Parsons’ will include insights into the influence that this college had on Fairfield and the many lives that were changed there”, says the filmmaker.

If you want to help the non-profit production company with additional post-production costs in bringing Parsons College to life, go to www.fairfield-historyseries.com. Also, the film team would appreciate any old film footage of Parsons-related activities on or off campus so they can make a digital copy and give you back your original. Submitted by Dick DeAngelis at dickd@deangelis.net

Alumni Write

Arnie Rothschild PC'69 writes

I graduated in 1969 and my two favorite faculty members were Dr. Eastman and Dr. Clarke. Each for different reasons.

Dr. Eastman because I walked into his office one day as a Sociology major to tell him that there was no way I could ever pass statistics. I asked to waive it and he allowed me to do so. In the early 90s, I consulted with Arbitron, the radio ratings company, on the creation of their first qualitative research project called "Retail Direct" so I went from not being able to pass statistics to creating a major consumer study and consulting the statisticians in its execution. Today, as the consultant and strategist in over 215 elections we use polling data (statistics) yet again...I found Dr. Eastman before he passed and told him that story and he remembered allowing me to waive statistics.

Dr. Clarke stopped me one day and asked why I was doing well in Educational Psychology with him and struggling in everything else. I told him that though I was taking tons of notes in other classes, I could not retain the information. He mentioned that I did not take notes in his course and I explained because he made sense to me. He told me to try not taking notes and lock into the teachers mind and try to figure out why they thought what they were saying was important...I tried that and became a dean's list student! That was vintage Parsons...focus on the student and teach them how to learn!

Today, I work as a political consultant and strategist, run an entertainment company, and own an ad agency. I only work with two major clients that are over a billion a year each (Batavia Downs Gaming Casino, Palmer Family of Companies, food distribution.)

215 elections and counting, winning almost 90% of the time, have worked on Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and have elected 41 Judges in NYS.

The entertainment company (Rochester Broadway Theatre League) is a 25 million dollar a year company and we put 5,000 kids a year through our education programs along with doing around 140 nights a year of entertainment including touring Broadway.

I was the partner in 9 radio stations in Rochester, Buffalo, and Northeast Ohio. Consulted to broadcasting industry throughout the US, UK, and Australia and wrote and syndicated Broadcast Negotiation Strategy training.

Among my consulting clients were NBC, Telemundo, Cox TV, Cox Cable, Meredith TV and publishing (Iowa based), Greater Media, the National Association of Broadcasters, Oakley Broadcasting (Quincy Illinois based) and others.

I refuse to retire and am very focused on teaching younger political operatives how to do a better job for their candidates and a better job for voters to make choices.

Personal...4 kids, 3 ex-wives, 2 granddaughters and still having fun!

Last, I wear a Parsons tee shirt every day; have 30 of them and never want to forget where I came from!

If you would like to share what you have been doing since Parsons or an anecdote about your time at Parsons, please send it to the PC News Editor [Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70](#)



Parsons College president Millard Roberts shares memorable moment with the new chapter's MF, Arnold Rothschild.

Where are they now?

I was a sophomore when Parsons closed. I am looking forward to the reunion in October 2023. I have so many fond memories of students and professors. I took a lot of pictures at the final graduation and hope to share them at the reunion. I have retained my maiden name. I am looking forward to what you hear from other people.

Cynthia Worley PC'75, Harlingen, TX 78550

What an exceptional idea (news), and quite a project too. So many ideas to consider, so much material that is probably available. Your categories for contributions are very good, it will be fun to see which ones garner the most submissions. And from there possibly thinking up a few more.

Pete Critelli PC'70, TKE, Living in Montana

I Lived in Rafiki Hall while at Parsons and am still in touch with - Jim Hartzfeld & Anthony Jelinek -PC'68, I became treasurer of Fortune 1000 company. I am Retired and became Certified Mentor with SCORE

Jeffrey Jankowski PC'68, living in Yorktown Heights, NY

Have news to share with us? [email the Parsons News Editor](#)

Then and Now



Jeff in 1964



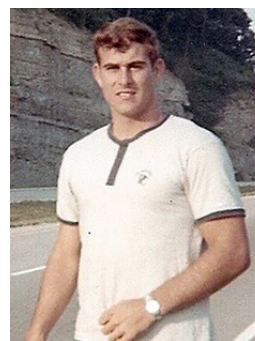
Jeff now

Jeff Shanafelt PC'65

I started at Parsons in 1960 and transferred to Northern Iowa Sophomore year; I came back to Parsons my junior and senior year. I graduated in January 1965. I was the only non-scholarship player to make the baseball team! Five players on that team went on to play in the in the major Leagues! Donnie Mason, Dick Mills, Tim Hienzman, Larry Blixt and Bob Bonalevz. A great team and players.

Joe Randall Thomas PC'70 was known as either Joe or Randall and attended Parsons from 1966-70 on a football scholarship. Joe lived in the Lair while he was a student.

Joe taught school for 30 years in Florida—mainly in Tampa.



Joe in 1966



Joe in 2022

PC Alumni Board Opening

What an exciting time for Parsons as our Golden Jubilee Reunion Weekend approaches! The Parsons College Alumni Association (PCAA) has openings on the Board. If you would like to serve and help keep Parsons Alumni connected, please complete the form at the end of the News and send it to Nancy (details on the form). The Board meets quarterly (January, April, July, October) via zoom and help set the direction for the PCAA. No travel. We hope you will consider being a member!

Parsons Mergers

What is a Parsons Merger? It is a term for PC students who met while attending Parsons and subsequently married! Hence “merger”.



Jim and Martha Steele Barretta PC’71, attended Parsons. Martha 1968 and Jim graduated in June 1971, Martha with a degree in Elementary Education and Jim with a B.A. in Physical Education. We were married June 1972 in Beverly Hills, Florida. Martha was the daughter of Rev. Jack Steele, our campus minister. I’m sure we saw each other in the Den early in our Senior year, but we went on a blind date set up by her Alpha Xi Delta sorority sister Judy McCreery and Bob Seelandt, my Lambda Chi fraternity brother in October of ‘66. Along with being in Alpha Xi Delta, Martha was also in the History Club, S.I.S.E.A., and a member of Sharpchuters. I played two seasons of Baseball for the Wildcats ‘67 and ‘68, was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha ‘70 - ‘71, and a member of the History Club.

Don & Judy A. Williams Butterbaugh were married in Barhydt Chapel December 17, 1960. Don, a Sigma Phi Epsilon, was Captain of the 1960 football team and Judy a Delta Zeta was the 1960 homecoming queen. Judy passed away September 25, 2022. Don lives in Marion, IA.

William Gibbs PC’71 and Bertha Hudgins Gibbs PC’71.

They met while working for SAGA Food Service in the H&W Cafeteria. Bertha was Head Resident of H&W and William belonged to Alpha Psi Omega the Dramatic Arts Fraternity.

Nancy Izzo PC’68 married James L. Johnson III (Jay) PC’68

Jay was a member of Delta Sigma Phi. Jay and Nancy met in the dorm. They divorced 2002

Helen Strauss Palmquist PC’67 and Jerry Palmquist PC’67.

How we met: Jerry’s fraternity, Theta Sigma Chi, was next door to Brown House where I was staying. The first day I arrived at Parsons the fraternity boys were helping the (innocent) freshman girls with their luggage at Brown House. That evening some of them invited some of us out to Lake Darling (I think that was the name of the lake) for a swim. We were married in August 1967 while Jerry was attending Western Michigan U. working on his MBA and I taught second grade.

STRAUSS, HELEN,
Chicago, ILL.
Elementary Education; Monse
Head;
Dean’s List; I.S.E.A.



PALMQUIST,
JEROME,
Neenah, Wis.
Business; Dean’s List;



Mary Evangelisti-Riepe PC’67 married Richard Riepe PC’67 April 8 1967.



Pamela Roberts Skinner PC’70 and Ed Skinner PC’72

Pam came to Parsons in 1966, Ed metriculated in 1968. Pam lived in Hibbard A and then moved up to the women’s side of the Delta Sigma Phi house. In June of 1968 Ed pledged Delta Sigma Phi... and we met... The rest is history! I loved the Delta Sig guys; Robert Fox became one of my best friends/my knight in shining armor (and yes there is a story or two to be told there) and Ed’s Big Brother. We were married on April 17, 1971 and almost 52 years later we are still together! We look forward to seeing Parsons Alumni at the reunion in October, we have our reservations in Fairfield! Do you?

In Memoriam

We lost the following Alumni in 2022, may they rest in peace. If you know of an alumnus/ae who passed away in 2022 or hear of any in 2023, please let [Nancy Wirtanen](#) know by clicking on this link.

- Robert MacPherson Casse–January 6
- Richard Reece–January 25
- Stanford “Kim” Williams–February 3
- Guy Clark–February 10
- John Braidwood–February 23
- Greg Mountsier–March 13
- Mark Itkin–March 31
- Dale Dexter–April 24
- Robert Darley–May 1
- Donald Farr–May 4
- Jane Ruby–May 5
- William McSweeney–May 19
- Larry Spencer–May 29
- Carolyn Krumbholz–June 1
- Diane Boaz–June 6
- Richard Ivins–June 8
- William MacFarlane “Mac”–July 4
- Kenneth Norton–August 18
- Robert McInerny–September 18
- Judith Butterbaugh–September 25
- Ruth Davis–September 29
- Dean Roussos–October 7
- Steve Case–October 11
- Gary Foster–October 12
- Cal Chamberlain–November 11
- Roger Channel–November 25
- Mark Shafer–December 20



Steve Case 1966



John Braidwood

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. Nancy Wirtanen and Ed Longanecker and are the original board members.



[Facebook](#)

Parsons College Alumni 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 March issue is February 28



[Parsons College Website](#)



Parsons College Alumni Association

Board Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone () _____ Cell () _____

Email _____ Years at Parsons _____

Current Position/Employer: _____

Experience _____

Please check the areas of expertise/contribution you feel you can make to further the mission of the Alumni Association.

_____ Fundraising

_____ Policy Development

_____ Other:

_____ Special Events/Jubilee

_____ Grant Writing

Please list prior experiences serving as a board member for other non-profit organizations.

What volunteer positions do you currently hold?

Why are you interested in serving on the Parsons College Alumni Association Board?

Please share any other information you feel important for consideration of your application.

Please return to Nancy Wirtanen PC'73,

- Via email: nwirtanen@yahoo.com .
- Via U.S. mail to: Nancy Wirtanen 7 W Villa Rita Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85023