

## Parsons Jubilee Reunion was enjoyed by 120 Alumni!

This edition of the PC News is dedicated to the Jubilee Reunion weekend held in Fairfield, IA the weekend of October 6–8, 2023!

### *The reunion from your Editor's perspective*

I have not been back to Fairfield since I left in 1970. That is fifty three years! But there was something about driving into Fairfield; it was different and familiar at the same time. The Den is gone, the Dream Motel is no longer there, Scotties is gone; the quads are no longer there. But the town Square is there and the buildings that once housed our favorite haunts are still there. My husband's (Ed Skinner PC'72) fraternity's (Delta Sigma Phi) "Party House" is there, only it is a private home... Oh, if they knew the stories from the 1960s! So many memories, so many marvelous memories!

After a quick tour of town we settled in at the AmericInn by Wyndham and got ready for the festivities.... I was a little hesitant; I did not know many of the attendees. We walked into the Fairfield Arts and Convention Center (FA&CC) to a wonderful Parsons welcome. The lobby had a registration table, John Blackstock's PC'64 was signing books, a display of our yearbooks that could be purchased for a donation. Everyone was so friendly; even though there was only one person who was there when Ed and I were there we felt welcome. That person was Robert Fox PC'66, whom I met in the hospital in 1966, his first year as Assistant Dean - that is another story. He and Ed were both Delta Sigma Phi's and seeing Robert made the weekend so special for Ed and I. Such a wonderful friend.

There was a social hour Friday night and it was fun to talk to people and hear their "Parson Experience". We are alumni from one college, but our experiences were very different depending on when we were there. We heard so many fun traditions from earlier years.

Saturday began with a gathering at the FA&CC, where a local minister did the convocation; we were welcomed to Fairfield by Mayor Connie Boyer. We heard a recital on the Barhydt organ and it is still

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PCAA members: Seated L-R; Dave Neff PC'69, Nancy Wirtanen PC'74, John Blackstock PC'64. Standing: Robert Fox PC'66, Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70, Ed Longenecker PC'68, Larry Litwin PC'66



*One last in-person celebration of our Alma Mater*

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as melodious as it was when I went there. Nancy Wirtanen PC'74, PCAA President and Reunion Chair, welcomed alumni back. Lunch was another great opportunity to socialize and get to know other alumni, look through old yearbooks, talk to our resident author, John Blackstock PC'64.

We were offered two options after lunch: a tour of the Carnegie Historical Museum or a Tour of MIU. We elected to tour MIU. The campus is very different than it was 53 years ago, but there are still some very familiar elements. For example our Student Union has been re-purposed into their Art gallery and Arts space. Spruced up but still recognizable. For those of us attending PC after 1966 when the Fraternities were on the Hill, they are still there. They look a little different, it took me



*Our Student Union circa 1968*



*MIU Art Gallery and Arts spaces 10/2023*

a while to “get it” but the front patio/entrances have been removed, there are individual doors for entry around the buildings. The color is now a light tan. The road has been moved. Some of the buildings are used for student housing; some as faculty housing. The new MIU buildings are very different from our day. The tour was very interesting and informative. Our tour guide had a great deal of respect for Parsons.



*Fraternity houses circa 1966, notice the doors and the patio leading to the front doors.*



*Fraternity houses 10/2023, the doors and patio are gone.*

Back to campus for a social hour and dinner. I had the opportunity to shoot some photos of our alumni and talk with so many people I did not know when I was there. After dinner we went to the auditorium to watch a “sold out” premier of the “Parsons” movie. It was so well done! You will want a copy! Details on how to order are on page 5 of this PC News! It was a fantastic weekend full of memories and making new friends.



*The Barbaydt Organ*



*The audience for the Premiere of “Parsons College”*



# Alumni Reunion Photos October 2023

It was such a fun weekend I tried to capture as many alumni as possible and I thank those of you who posed for photos!!!



*Representing Alpha Gamma Delta*



*Representing Alpha Xi Delta*



*PC Football Players*



*PC Football players*



*John Blackstock PC'64*



*Ed Longenecker PC'68 with the yearbooks*



*Representing Delta Sigma  
Phi: Ed Skinner PC'72,  
Robert Fox PC'66, James  
Donll PC'68*



Can you guess what these two buildings are? They were both there when we attended. Send your answers to the [PC News Editor, Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70, parsonscollege70@gmail.com](mailto:PCNewsEditor,PamelaRobertsSkinnerPC70,parsonscollege70@gmail.com)



# Alumni Reunion Photos October 2023

A big thank you to the Jubilee Reunion Committee:

Doug Harrison PC'73                      John Simmons PC'73  
 Joe Hartman PC'73                        Susan Steinbeck PC'73  
 Shan Roth PC'73                          Joyce Witzenburg PC'72  
 Nancy Wirtanen PC'73, Chair



In case you were wondering about the field house where we all have so many fond memories of rallies, concerts, speakers... it looks basically as it did 53 years ago and it is still in use!



*Fieldhouse circa mid-60s*



*Fieldhouse 10/2023*



*Map of Parsons College circa 1968*

Delta Sig Party house 10/23  
 Do you have a photo of your party house? Send to the Editor of the News



*Map of MIU circa 2019*



*Rae Wycoff Hale PC'62*



*Frank Repass, Larry Hudak, Joe Hartman*



*Deborah Soodhalter PC'68*

Delta Sig Party house 10/23. Do you have a photo of your party house? [Send to the Editor of the News](#)



# Parsons College: the Movie



There were three sold out performances in the 522 seat theater during the Reunion Weekend; all performances were open to the public. It was a fantastic production by Fairfield Productions, Dick DeAngelis, Producer/Director. Each performance was met with a standing ovation. This is one DVD you will want to have in your collection. We purchased one while at the reunion and it is so fun to go back and pick up details we missed the first time!

To order your DVD, go to this link; <https://www.fairfieldhistoryseries.com/category/all-products>

I normally do not share Facebook posts, but this one from Arnie Rothschild is worth sharing, in part:

Dear fellow Wildcats...

I was sitting in my office watching the Parsons retrospective movie after buying it on line and one of the young lady's I work with came in and asked what I was watching. I want to share what I told her...

I am watching the true story of a place that did not look down on a bunch of us that did not even know how much talent we had in us because we had not learned how talent worked yet.

I am watching a story about how it was okay to believe that learning was a process for some, but when we got it, we soared.

I am watching a story about how a crazy man believed that three things were true, colleges were actually businesses, some young people could actually prosper if given the chance, and people teaching should love doing that, not writing theory!

*Arnie Rothschild PC'69*

And John Blackstock PC'64 writes:

The 'Parsons' film debut was the highlight of the entire weekend and you must get a copy. The film premier was open to the public... a huge crowd was gathering at the theater for the 7:30pm showing. It was another Sondheim sellout, standing room only. The 1:15 hour history of Parsons drew rave reviews. The 'Parsons' film was repeated Saturday night to another full house and again Sunday afternoon.

*John Blackstock PC'64*

# In Memoriam

May they rest in peace...

Santo "Sandy" Colabufo PC'72  
Lucy Fischer PC'62  
Richard Hutchinson PC'61  
Chuck Jaqua PC'66  
Alan B. Johnson PC'67  
Sally Rinehart Johnson PC'71  
Eric Marshall PC'66  
Edward Reed PC'61  
Susan Soennecken PC'68  
Robert Stump PC'55

August 17, 2023  
December 27, 2023  
August 12, 2023  
March 15, 2022  
September 23, 2023  
October 21, 2023  
December 3, 2023  
September 8, 2023  
October 9, 2023  
October 27, 2023

Zeta Beta Tau  
Alpha Xi Delta  
Tau Kappa Epsilon  
  
Delta Zeta  
Alpha Chi Rho  
Tau Kappa Epsilon

## PC News News...

Going forward we will publish the PC News twice a year: February and August (**IF** we get enough news from you). Please send your news, photos, memories to the editor, [Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70](#), this publication is only possible if **YOU** contribute!

We need your articles and photos for the News, these are the more popular sections:

- **Parsons Mergers** –you met your spouse while a student at PC
- **Then and now**—send a photo of you while at Parsons and one of you now with a brief write up of your time at Parsons and what you are doing now.
- **Articles you would like to contribute.**
- We encourage alumni to submit articles about their alumni experience

### 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 Website](#)

### 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  
Ken Rice PC'65  
[Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70, PC News Editor](#)

### Publication Info

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

**Deadline for the August issue is  
July 15th 2024**



[PC News Submission](#)