



March 2023

# Parsons College News

Volume 13 No. 2

March 2023



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

The reunion committee is planning a fantastic weekend for us! 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](#)  
[Super 8 by Wyndham Fairfield](#)

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

If those are sold out, there are hotels in neighboring towns: Ottumwa to the west, Mount Pleasant to the east.

The tentative schedule is filled with memories and activities and includes (Most events will take place at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center):

### Friday October 6:

- Registration starts at 3:00pm at the Fairfield Arts and Convention Center (FA & CC)
- Displays bringing back many memories
- Alumnus John Blackstock PC'64 will sign his book titled My Four Years at Parsons College
- A social hour
- Premiere of the film "Parsons"

### Saturday October 7:

- Registration continues
- Brunch
- Tours
- Barhydt Organ recital
- Social Hour, Dinner, and Entertainment

And more! Visit with old friends, make new friends, share memories only Parsons alumni can understand. The full schedule and registration to follow.

Fraternities, sororities, social and other groups are trying to get together at the reunion; if you would like us to put a notice in the May Newsletter, please email [Pamela Roberts Skinner PC'70](#).

Registration forms will be in the next issue of the PC News! But you can make your hotel reservations and travel plans now!

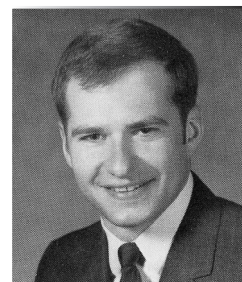
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**Parsons Merchandise goes on sale 4/1/23.  
See the last page**

# Parsons College Alumni Board

We interview a PCAA Board member in each issue of the PC News. Our highlighted member for this issue is Dave Neff PC'69, Treasurer of the Alumni Association.



Q. *What years did you attend Parsons?*

A. June of 1965 until June of 1969

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

A. The brotherhood of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.  
The genuine concern of the faculty focusing on the success of the students.  
The full schedule of entertainment that the college provided the community at the Fry Thomas Fieldhouse with top concerts of the leading performers of that day.

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

A. Dr. John Wahrer, chairman of the Physical Education Department.  
Mrs. Vera Young professor in the Physical Education Department.  
Both Dr. Wahrer and Mrs. Young provided students in the Physical Education Department skills which were needed to make the student a top notch teacher and coach for their career.

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

A. I lived in the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity house for all four years of my college career. I pledged in the fall of 1965 and activated in January of 1966.

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

A. South Euclid, Ohio, an eastern suburb of Cleveland, Ohio.

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

A. Upon graduation June of 1969 I was hired to be the Intramural Director for Parsons College. The following year I accepted the position of Director of Basic Skills Physical Education for the college, along with Sports Information Director and Cross Country and Track Coach. I held these positions until the College closed in 1973.

In June of 1974, I was hired at the Iowa State Bank & Trust Company in Fairfield as a teller and worked for the bank until I retired after 41 years with them. I was President of the bank for four years toward the end of my career.

Q. *Where do you live now?*

A. I remain a resident of Fairfield, Iowa.

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

A. I was involved with the Parsons College Foundation Fund and helped John Braidwood and John Blackstock formulate the Parsons College Wall of Honor where we were able to induct 100 alumni over a 10-year period to recognize contributions our alumni made to the country.

The PC Foundation helped raise over \$250,000 for the construction of the Fairfield Arts and Convention Center and to have naming rights for the Parsons College Alumni Hall at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. The Alumni Hall is where the Parsons College Wall of Honor is located. I was asked to join the Parsons College Alumni Association as an adjunct to the PC Foundation Fund.

# Where are they now?

## Alumni Write

**Pete Critelli PC'70 writes...** Thank you for assuming the editor position/job. There are so many memories we each have, some are as clear as if yesterday. I have several that are just such. One memory is: cold, freezing, winter Sunday nights, the town completely still, no traffic, not a person walking, crystallized frosty air. Even George's Pizza and the Den were closed for the evening. Yet, on the west end of town, no more than three blocks from the square, there was a diner, open, and welcoming. An oasis, good food, hot coffee, and conversation.

A second memory is: summer theater on campus, I can not recall the name of the building, which had a large lecture theater-style room, and was host to plays, that Dr. Spayde's, department helped coordinate. Hal Holbrook and others appeared. I earned some elective credits in the upper back projection room, working the lights and curtains for several of the productions.

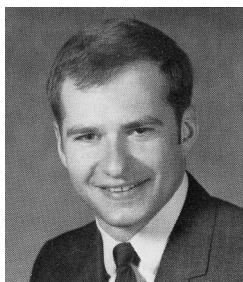
Good times then, good memories still -Pete

**Looking for Bridesmaid and Best Man...** Darlynn Fahndrick PC'63 and Robert Fitch PC'63 would like to find Judith Lee Day and H. E. Edmunds (EV).

**Looking for Phi Sigma Epsilon brothers...** John F. LeRoux PC'65 reports he and Dick Delaney PC'66 are trying to encourage Phi Sigma Epsilon brothers to attend the PC Reunion Weekend in October. If you are a brother contact him at: [johnfleroux@hotmail.com](mailto:johnfleroux@hotmail.com) or 941-445-7739.

**Looking for Delta Sigma Phi brothers ...**Ed Skinner PC'72 is trying to locate Delta Sigma Phi brothers to encourage them to attend the weekend! Both Pam and Ed would like to see a strong Delta Sig showing, [email Ed Skinner PC'72](mailto:email Ed Skinner PC'72)

## Then and Now



**Dave Neff PC'69**

Dave's PC Senior Photo from the 1969 Piera.

Dave Neff and fraternity brother Pat Kurz in 2022 in front of the Sig Ep fraternity house.



My name is **Nancy Holmes Darby PC'67**. I pledged Delta Zeta sorority in my freshman year and met my husband, Robert Darby, on a blind date. I raised three children and have three grand children. I received my Masters in 2004 and taught until retirement in 2014.

**Do you have "then and now" photos you would like to share?**

Please [Send them to PC News editor](#)

# This and That...

## Did you know...?

...that Parsons was founded in 1875 with one building and 34 students? Parsons almost made it 100 before its closing.

...that Parsons was named for Lewis B. Parsons Sr., who directed that his estate to be used “to endow an institution of learning in the State of Iowa”. Officially Parsons became a college 20 years after Lewis B. Parsons, Sr. died. It could have been located anywhere in Iowa, but when the committee fulfilling his wishes came to Fairfield, the decision was made.

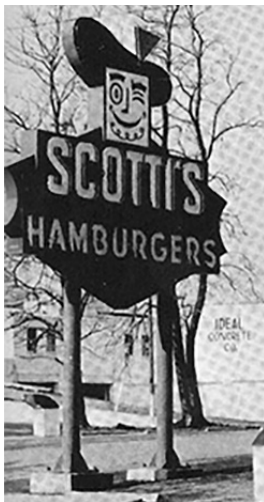
...Parsons lost its accreditation more than once. In 1948, Parsons lost its accreditation but gained it back 2 years later?

...that Millard G. Roberts was appointed in 1955 and when he started his tenure there were only 357 students, and that the student body had over 5,000 students in 1966?

...that the first football game was played at Parsons on September 16, 1893 (we won 70-0)?

...that the Carnegie Library was opened in 1907?

Do you remember?



What are your memories of this location?



I purchased these the summer of 1966 right after the Life article. That was 57 years ago! Do you have any original PC attire?



Greek Week, Spring Fling, Lake Louise... We **did** have a great time at Parsons, didn't we? If you have photos, memories, stories you would like to share with us, please send it to the [PC News Editor](#)

# Parsons Mergers



**Nancy Holmes Darby PC'67 and Bob Darby PC'67** were engaged on Bob's birthday while at Parsons; they were married in June 1968. Nancy and Bob have three children, have been married for 55 years and have three grandchildren.



Nancy was a Delta Zeta. She left Parsons when her fiancé, Bob Darby, graduated. She earned a degree in Elementary Education. She was a teacher and retired in 2014 after 25 years. Bob is a retired customer relations manager at PSEG.

**Janet Lee West Friedrich PC'66 and Charles William "Bill" Friedrich PC'66**, married on June 20, 1970. She was a charter member of Nu Sigma chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi.

Although they undoubtedly passed one another on campus after he arrived in 1965, they did not meet until a mutual friend introduced them at Homecoming 1966. They began dating in 1969. While at Parsons, Bill was a dorm counselor at Churchill Dorm and was a resident of Turner House. He finished in February 1967. Janet and Bill lived in Illinois for all of their married lives and were blessed with two children and four grandchildren. Bill passed away on January 25, 2020.

**Darlynn Fahndrick PC'63 and Robert Fitch PC'63** were married in Barhydt Chapel on January 18, 1963. They just celebrated their 60th anniversary. Darlynn and Robert live in Houston, Texas.

Darlynn drove to Iowa from Texas in her '55 Chevy to Parsons in the summer of 1962, Bob was already there without a vehicle. That winter her parents were concerned that she never drove in snow or ice and suggested she find someone to buy her car. She sold it to Bob and then got it back when they married. They seldom drove the '55; turns out their friend, Doug Marion PC'70, had a girlfriend that didn't like his '62 Vette, so that fall they traded cars. In 1977 they reconnected with Doug at the National Council of Corvette Clubs annual convention in Dallas, TX. He was there as a writer for Super Chevy magazine.



**Andrew Gilmore (1963-64 and 1967-68) met his first wife, Susan Parsons PC'70** (aka "Soupy") on a blind date during the summer of '67. She would hang out with Andrew at the KCLS studio on campus, and by that Christmas they were engaged. In June 1968, they both quit school and got married in Lynnfield, Massachusetts (her hometown). But, the transition from college sweethearts to husband and wife was a tough one, and they divorced in 1971. Sue passed away a few years ago.



**Sarah Manley Haven PC'70 and Gary Haven PC'70** met on the first day of classes in October, 1967.

Gary was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha. They graduated in June, 1970 and were married in July, 1971. Sarah and Gary have many wonderful memories of our time at Parsons.



**Are you a Parsons Merger?**

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

## Information from the Editor

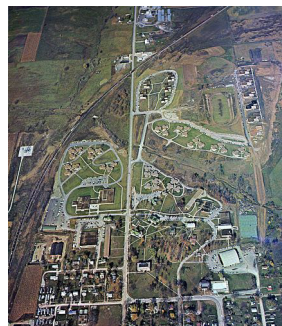
Thank you for submitting articles, photos, and information for the PC News! **You** make the news, so keep the information coming. Please email all submissions to the [PC News Editor](#).

What can you send?

- Your memories/thoughts: you don't have to format the information, I will do that!
- Your 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). .jpg, .jpeg, .png work very well.
- Please feel free to email Pam Skinner, [PC News Editor](#), with your thoughts, questions, requests, ideas, comments.
- Make sure [Nancy Wiratan](#) has your correct email so we can send the news to you and reunion information to you.
- Not all columns will appear every month; the majority of the information in the PC News comes from alumni submissions. Sometimes I get more than I need for one issue, so if you submitted something and you don't see it, it **will** be in a future issue. Each and every submission is important.
- I am looking for original material that has not been seen (not a requirement), so go through your photo albums, scrapbooks, yearbooks, etc. for your Parsons photos! You can scan on most printers or with your Phone (please watch the glare). And your yearbook is a great source of memories you may want to share!



What are your memories of this building?



1964 ariel view of campus

### 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 May issue is April 14th**



[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</p> <p>\$22.00</p>	<p>Bella + Canvas Unisex Jersey Short Sleeve Tee</p>  <p>2 Colors</p> <p>\$23.50</p>	<p>JERZEES Spotshield™ 50/50 Polo</p>  <p>3 Colors</p> <p>\$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</p> <p>\$24.00</p>	<p>Jerzees 562mr Nublend Crewneck Sweatshirt</p>  <p>3 Colors</p> <p>\$26.00</p>
<p>Jerzees® Adult 8 Oz. Nublend® Pullover Hooded Swea</p>  <p>3 Colors</p> <p>\$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)

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