Parsons College E-News

Volume 10, No. 1/2 Spring/Summer - 2018

All-Classes Reunion, 10th Wall Of Honor Ceremony Scheduled The Weekend Of October 5-7, 2018...

Once again, the Parsons College Foundation Fund (PCFF) and the Parsons College Alumni Association (PCAA) have joined forces and are planning an All-Class Reunion to be held in conjunction with the 10th Wall of Honor Ceremony and the presentation of the 'Parsons College Wildcats Spirit Awards', October 5-7, 2018.

Ten years ago in October of 2008, Wall of Honor Co-Founder **John Blackstock** announced that he and Co-Founder **Dave Neff** were prepared to launch a 10-year program to recognize, honor and bring back 100 Parsons Students/Alumni who had distinguished themselves in their career fields, their community, and by giving back to Parsons College.

The first WOH class was inducted in 2009. The year 2018 marks the 10th and final year of the program.. On October 6, there will be now be 100 plaques mounted on the walls of Alumni Hall as promised. That promise has been fulfilled, the project completed as originally planned and drawn up. Going forward we expect without hesitation that the All-Class Reunions will continue and that the 'Parsons College Wildcats Spirit Award' will also continue as an ongoing endeavor, and means of recognizing excellence and commitment. *(See Dave Neff letter on page 2)*...

The weekend events, which will also feature Fairfield's 'First Friday Art Walk' and the kickoff of 'Oktoberfest' on the square, will commence Friday, October 5th with registration in the lobby of the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center at 4:00PM. The festivities will include a Friday, 'Happy Hour' with beer, wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Plus, the option of attending the 'John Denver Tribute' at 7:30PM in the Stephen Sondheim Auditorium in the FA&CC.

Registration will continue Saturday at 9:00AM at the FA&CC and an assortment of Parsons memorabilia will be on sale. The WOH ceremony begins at 10:00AM, followed by the unveiling of the plaques in Parsons Alumni Hall. We expect Dr. Bob Tree to be in attendance although his participation will be limited. A 12:30PM hot buffet luncheon will then be served at the FA&CC.

Mark Schafer will once again host guests at the Carnegie Historical Museum, just off the square on South Court Street from 1:30 PM to 4:00PM. And a gala 3-course hot buffet dinner will highlight Saturday evening for those registered and will follow the 5:00PM Happy Hour at the FA&CC where a cash bar will be available. Past tradition has led Alumni & Friends to the local HYVEE Restaurant, west of town, just off Highway 34, for the optional 9:00AM Sunday 'Farewell Breakfast.'

For those planning to return for the Reunion and Wall of Honor, we strongly recommend you make reservations now as motel space is limited. We recommended the **'AmericInn' 1-641-451-6600** (south of town); **'Best Western' 1-641-472-2200;** (west of town); and **'Super 8' 1-641-2000** (also west of town)... *(Registration Form page 3)*

Portion of the Redesigned Wall of Honor through 2017...

A LETTER TO THE ALUMNI *by Dave Neff...*

February 28, 2018

Dear Parsons College Alumni,

The Parsons College Wall of Honor has celebrated nine-years of recognizing those Student/Alumni who have gone above and beyond in their distinguished careers and given back to their communities.

We are proud to have recognized to date, 89 of those Student/Alumni with our annual first weekend in October celebration, the first of which, was held in October of 2009. John Blackstock and I pledged eleven-years ago that we would do our best to carry out this program to ten-years of recognition. In October of 2018, we will have completed our pledge to our alumni.

The Parsons College Alumni Association, at their quarterly teleconference, discussed and would like to see the Wall of Honor continue into the future. John and I have given our word that if a new committee and chair would be willing to step forward to take on this annual event, we would be happy to coach and mentor them during 2018, so that the torch can be passed to this newly formed group of Alumni to carry, and establish as a tradition for the future.

Please accept this letter as our invitation to you, as you have responded in a recent Parsons College Alumni Survey, to step up and volunteer to continue to recognize our Alumni for what they have shared during their lives.

We have asked Nancy Wirtanen, president of the Parsons College Alumni Association, to distribute this invitation to those Alumni who responded positively to the aforementioned survey.

Please let us know by responding directly to Nancy Wirtanen at her e-mail below of your interest in this opportunity by June 30, 2018. nwirtanen@yahoo.com

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to continuing the legacy of Parsons College. GO WILDCATS!!!!

David Neff, President neffacres@lisco.com PH 641-919-4640

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PARSONS COLLEGE FOUNDATION FUND & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2018 WALL OF HONOR AND STUDENT/ALUMNI REUNION
REGISTRATION FORM

Who: Parsons College Students/Alumni and Friends

What: 2018 Wall of Honor and Student/Alumni All-Classes Reunion

When: October 5-7, 2018 ***Where:*** Fairfield, Iowa

***Name** _____

***Please include maiden name if applicable** _____

***Address** _____

***City, State, Zip** _____

***Phone numbers: Home** _____ ***Cell** _____

***E-mail** _____

***Class of** _____ ***Affiliation(s)** _____

***Spouse Name** _____

***Class of (if applicable)** _____ ***Affiliation** _____

****

*Student/Alumni **ALL EVENTS** Inclusive……..**$80.00 per person** x _____= $_____

*Friday Reception & Happy Hour **(ONLY)** at ……..**$30.00 per person** x _____= $_____

Fairfield Arts & Convention Center (Includes draft beer, house wines, soft drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres)

*Saturday Wall of Honor Lunch **(ONLY)** at ……..**$20.00 per person** x _____= $_____

Fairfield Arts & Convention Center (Hot buffet lunch, cash bar)

*Saturday Reunion/Buffet Dinner **(ONLY)** at……**$30.00 per person** x _____= $ _____

Fairfield Arts & Convention Center (Three course buffet dinner, cash bar)

*Sunday Optional 'Farewell Breakfast'…..... **On your own**
At Hy-Vee Store Restaurant

TOTAL DUE $ _____

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Please return form and include check payable to: **Parsons College Foundation Fund**
Mail to: Parsons College Foundation Fund, 2272 Glasgow Road, Fairfield, IA 52556
No refunds after September 21st. An additional $10.00 late fee for walk-ins will be charged at the door on day of the event
See Front Page for overview and details of the Reunion Weekend. **GO WILDCATS!**
MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

Bet you didn't know?? by John Braidwood

Parsons Medical University????

Nearly 40 years ago, while employed by Key Bank in Albany. NY, I mustered the courage to call one of our former Parsons College trustees who had bitterly resigned from the board upon **Millard G. Roberts** termination.

Reluctantly, I asked him, as a Parsons College graduate, if he would consider having lunch with me. To my surprise, actually to my shock, he accepted. **Clyde W. Wright,** a resident of Oneonta, NY who was well into his eighties arrived in a chauffeured car, and our lunch meeting began. As you may recall, Mr. Wright was the benefactor of our new library building and it was named for him. Roberts and Wright were personal friends, and lived in Oneonta for years prior to Roberts arrival at Parsons. Wright was one of the early founders of IBM, who significantly benefited from the company's early success, and massed a fortune. Roberts knew he had the perfect man to help him create his vision for Parsons College, and quickly appointed him to the board.

Clyde W. Wright Library

Not knowing what to expect, I was pleasantly surprised to be warmly greeted, and to discover a somewhat frail man with a firm handshake, and a mild, but somewhat formal demeanor. It became evident through our conversation his love for Parsons College, and his undeniable respect and admiration for Roberts. Many times during our conversation he emphatically expressed his deep disappointment for Robert's demise. It was also evident that their friendship endured in spite of the many allegations that precipitated the board's decision to terminate Roberts. Repeatedly, he told me Robert's firing was a travesty that precipitated the closure of the college. His reverence for Roberts became more and more apparent as our one discussion went on. This was a man who was loyal to Roberts, right to the end.

But what really surprised me, clearly an understatement, was his announcement that he had purchased property for Roberts in Oneonta to facilitate Robert's plan for what one day, would be, ***Parsons Medical University***. He sadly lamented that Robert's firing quickly destroyed any such plans. Incidentally, that very property in part, became the home of the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

Footnote: Key Bank, formerly National Commercial Bank & Trust Company's President and CEO, **Walter Herzog**, was a personal friend of Roberts and was also an early appointment to the Parsons board of trustees.

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"Pro-Active" Admissions Department

Some of you know Parsons maintained recruiting offices in Chicago and NYC. What you probably didn't know is that Parsons had an admissions staff larger than most major colleges and universities. At one time it had as many as 19 recruiters in the field, compared to perhaps four or five that another institution of similar size might have employed. Obviously, Roberts realized that to increase enrollment he had to be "pro-active" and to his credit, he initiated and promoted the concept to what some educators claimed was extreme. Extreme or not, the "proof was in the pudding", Parson's enrollment grew at a breathtaking pace.

Foot note: **Richard N. Hoerner,** chairman of the board of trustees in the early years of Robert's administration was probably most influential in helping Roberts realize the value of initiating a program that incorporated "pro-active recruiting", much out of character for Roberts ... he listened!

(Continued on page 5)

(BRAIDWOOD - Cont'd)

One Remarkable Faculty

Amazingly, as enrollment increased from the fall of 1955 to the fall of 1965, PhD's increased from 6 to 93...M.A's from 16 to 98...and B.A,'s on staff from 9 to 59. A sum total of 31 in 1955 to a remarkable sum total of 255 by 1965, in just 10 short years! Unfortunately, the faculty turnover rate at Parsons was far higher than most institutions. "We should have a revolving door," said one administrator, "to facilitate the simultaneous exit and arrival of new faculty members." A few months before Roberts was fired, only thirteen ranked faculty members had been at the college as long as five years! Robert's "modus operandi" was as if to say, if I don't like you, or you don't like me, you can pack your bags, I have potential candidates waiting in line, I have, after all, the third highest paid faculty in the United States.

You think Dr. Roberts had no clout? Think again! Here he sits with Senator Gerald Ford who is on his way to addressing the Class of 1966.

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Wall of Honor Founders, L/R: John Braidwood, Dave Neff and John Blackstock following the October 3, 2009 induction of WOH Class #1..

How To Measure Success???

An interesting statement that appeared in **James Koener's** book, the "Parsons Bubble", in part reads: "Even though many institutions rejected the open-door, second-chance philosophy of Parsons College, they might still be well-advised to forget their prejudices, and see if there is not something, after all, that they can learn from it's successes".

Foot note: How do you measure success? ... Just peruse the almost 100 graduates who appear on the "Parsons College Wall Of Honor" located in Alumni Hall at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center ... it is compelling!

COMING SOON!!! *A Special 2018 'Wall of Honor' Edition of E-News!!!*

Next Issue – SPECIAL WOH EDITION – 2018
News Deadline: NO DEADLINE

Your news and photographs are needed.
Please submit as a jpg and provide information about the photo.

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

Getting a new email address? Receiving multiple issues? If so, please notify Nancy of address change and any duplication.

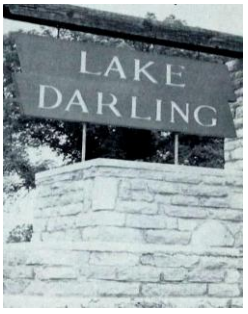
WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS AN ISSUE!!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
The 10th Annual
WALL OF HONOR CEREMONY
will be at 10:00AM,
Saturday, October 6th
Fairfield Arts & Convention Center
BE THERE!
DON'T MISS IT!

SPRINGTIME and SUMMERTIME

at

PARSONS COLLEGE



SPOTLIGHT by Dave Neff...

"The Final Days of Parsons College"

The final graduation of Parsons College was just completed and the scramble began with Student/Athletes finding a landing spot for the fall of 1973 to continue their education. This chapter tells the story of the Women's Athletic Department making a transition from Parsons to William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Bob and Pat Spencer along with the assistance of **Ray Ham** made a mad scramble to afford this smooth transition of the Parsons College Wildkitten program to a new home. They shared this interview on April 6, 2018.

Background

The Parsons College Women's Athletic program including basketball, cross country, track and field and softball had arrived the fall of 1970 from John F. Kennedy College in Wahoo, Nebraska. The basketball program was the crown jewel of the transition. A successful program had been implemented and nurtured at JFK.

At that time JFK was one of only a few colleges in the country sponsoring a women's basketball program. All of their competition was made up of AAU women's basketball teams from Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. This was all before Title IX was implemented by the NCAA. Long drives were made to provide playing opportunities for these student/athletes.

The Iowa Girl's State Basketball Tournament was held at Veterans Auditorium in Des Moines, Iowa every March. All of the schools in Iowa were in one class, so the small schools many times would take on the large Des Moines Schools and come out the victor.

The State Tournament was held at the Veterans Auditorium and would be sold out for the final four competition. Many of these Iowa girls were looking to continue their education and to play basketball on the college level and when Coach Bob Spencer implemented one of the first summer high school girls' basketball camps in the Midwest at John F. Kennedy College in Wahoo, Nebraska, the camp openings would fill up quickly.

LAST OF THE WILDKITTENS...Kneeling L/R: J. Weifenbach, S. Konrad, W.Jones, M. Smith, K. Westphal, G. Matthias. Standing L/R: J. Wick, J. Wick M. Schrick, B. Moeller, D. Fenske, S. Van Cleave, B. Spencer.

John F. Kennedy College was having financial difficulties resulting in Parsons Athletic Director, **Dr. John Wahrer,** making an offer to Coach Spencer to bring a women's athletic program to Fairfield in the fall of 1970. **Ted Dillow,** President of John F Kennedy College in Wahoo, NE, a former Parsons faculty member, wanted the girls to stay in Iowa and he assisted as best he could in the transition.

Spencer and Wahrer, both being Parsons Alums, felt this would be a great opportunity for Parsons College. At the same time, one of the Parsons Satellite schools, Midwestern College in Denison, Iowa was ready to close and they also had a women's basketball program. The admissions department at Parsons College was able to recruit most of the student body from Midwestern College including their student athletes. As a result those women basketball players from JFK and Midwestern comprised the first Parsons College women's basketball program in Fairfield, Iowa. Fry-Thomas Fieldhouse on campus would be filled to the rafters with college and town fans for each of the home games with the Parsons College Wildkitten basketball team.

(Continued on page 8)

Parsons Final Year

A William Penn representative had made overtures to Coach Spencer in 1972, with a door opening opportunity for the women's athletic program. Coach Spencer, along with so many of the faculty and staff, were not ready to accept that the college could be closing. So Spencer thanked the representative and kept focusing on the current student/athletes.

The contacts in Oskaloosa came from Spencer's background from coaching and teaching at Carlisle, Iowa. **Ron Randleman** the Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at William Penn had been a student/athlete at Carlisle when he was in high school and had Spencer as a teacher and coach. Spencer was the assistant football coach and loved this job. He transitioned from football to coaching track in the spring and Randleman, along with 88 of the 111 high school boys, came out for track. His mantra was "be on time for practice."

Lake Crookham was a graduate of Parsons College and was actively involved in the Oskaloosa Community as an attorney. He was assisting William Penn in this opportunity of transition in locating various places for activity such as the basketball camp and arranging a swimming pool for the summer basketball camp participants.

Wildkitten Brenda Moeller give it her all fighting for possession.

Pete Kendall as director of the admissions department at William Penn College also saw this as a great recruiting tool and wanted the women's athletic program to make a smooth transition from Fairfield to Oskaloosa. Therefore the three interested parties were the primary contacts for Coach Spencer and the women's athletic program was able to make a smooth transition over the weekend from a closing Parsons College campus to an inviting William Penn campus in Oskaloosa.

There were other Iowa colleges who were interested in obtaining the transferring of the student/athletes including, Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. But he strong ties with the leaders of William Penn College won the choice of the Parsons College Women's Athletic Department.

The first week of the Parsons College 1973 high school girl's basketball camp was completed on June 1st in Fairfield. The remaining 10 weeks of camp were scheduled and ready to arrive in Oskaloosa each Sunday afternoon.

Implementation

The announcement of the closure of Parsons College came on a Friday morning to the college community from **Dr. Everett Hadley**, acting president. The plan was formed with the leadership of Coach Bob Spencer, his wife Pat and assistant basketball coach, Ray Ham. Spencer made the phone call to William Penn College that he was ready to accept their offer and the migration from Fairfield to Oskaloosa began in earnest.

Pat Spencer began placing phone calls to the girls who were registered for the second week of camp scheduled to begin that Sunday afternoon June 3, 1973. There were 110 registrations for that next week and all but one accepted the opportunity to go to the William Penn campus for camp. The commitment was overwhelming.

There was a great buzz in Oskaloosa as the word arrived of the acceptance of their offer. The William Penn graduation was taking place on that Saturday, June 2, 1973, and the basketball camp would be arriving Sunday afternoon. Many of the faculty and staff sprang into action cleaning the dorm rooms and placing fresh linen in place for the Sunday afternoon arrival of the basketball camp girls.

The rest is history as the ten weeks of camp were a success and a good number of the Parsons College student/athletes became William Penn student/athletes.

(Continued on page 9)

"It's Happening in Fairfield!"

(NEFF- Cont'd)

Epilogue –

Coach Spencer shared the following reflection at the end of the interview. The women's athletic program did not plan to leave Parsons. Coach's feelings were that had Parsons remained open he would have stayed in Fairfield until retiring. Spencer's love for the college and the city was based on experiences as a student, alumni and Parsons faculty member.

His personal sentiments toward Dr. Roberts work ethic was over the top. Spencer further stated that the criticism toward Dr. Roberts was based on his being a man before his time in education. "Higher Education" had not seen practices on the college level that Dr. Roberts had put in place. Side note: Coach Spencer was the private driver for Dr Roberts after being discharged from the service...

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Editor's Note: *To submit Greek, social, or personal news, send request to* ***Nancy Wirtanen*** *at: nwirtanen@yahoo.com for consideration. E-News reserves the right to edit all material and downsize due to limited space. Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily represent those of E-News or the PCAA.* ***The Parsons College Alumni E-News is not affiliated with the Parsons News-line, or George C. Jordan III.***

More Did You Know…

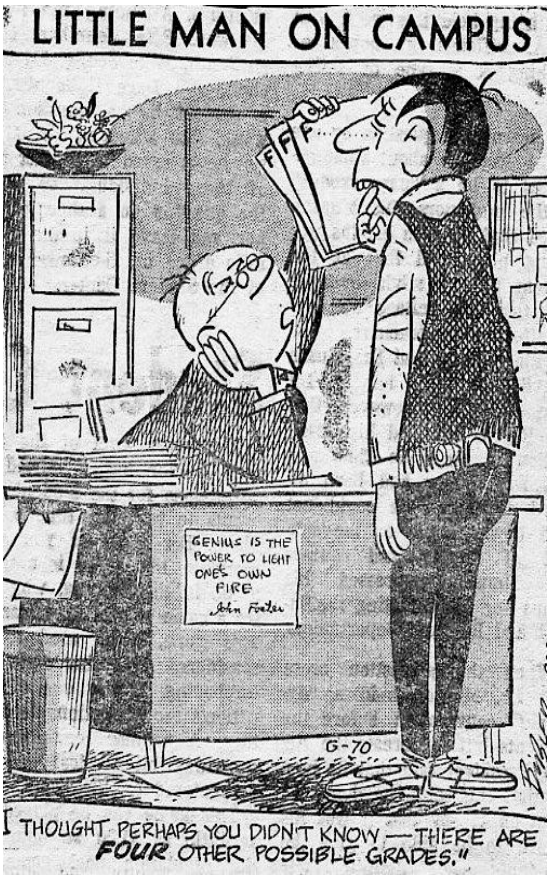
> DID YOU KNOW.. that Charles Parsons (1824-1905) was the brother of Lewis B. Parsons?

> DID YOU KNOW.. that during the 1880's he amassed one of the largest private art collections in the world?

> DID YOU KNOW.. that the art he gave to Washington University, which led to the creation of the St. Louis Art Museum?

> DID YOU KNOW.. that his gifting set the stage for art education in the 20th century?

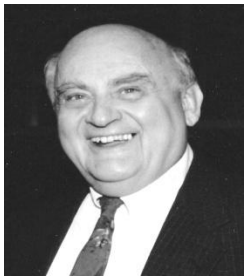
> DID YOU KNOW.. That Charles Parsons is buried in the Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis, along with his brother Lewis B. Parsons?



Courtesy of Dennis Marandos

Gene Copeland '61: Parsons Loses A Tremendous Friend And Supporter

Eugene "Gene" Leroy Copeland of Fairfield, passed away June 9, 2018, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He was 79. A true, humble human being, thankful, grateful for anything anyone ever did for him. Gene was born in Fairfield and had an immense impact on perpetuity in donations on display at the Carnegie Historical Museum and the Fairfield Art Association. Other philanthropic donations were made to Denver General Hospital, The Copeland Collection of the Auraria Library, and even the Fairfield Library. His entire life was given in service.



Eugene "Gene" Copeland

Graduated Fairfield High School 1957, with honors; Parsons College, 1961 with honors; and University of Iowa College of Law, 1965 with a Juris Doctor with Distinction. A Fulbright scholar, member of Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and Who's Who in America, Gene played trombone in the high school band, sang in the choir, participated in intercollegiate debate and wrote for the college newspaper. He served for seven years in the Iowa National Guard and played the baritone in the 34th Infantry Division Band. Gene was on the Board of Editors, Iowa Law Review from 1964-1965. He was admitted to the Colorado and Iowa bars in 1965, and the Supreme Court of the United States Court bar in 1966.

Gene went to Denver and opened his own practice from 1965-1966. In 1966 he was elected Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Security Life of Denver. In 1986 he was elected Chief Counsel of what became the largest insurance corporation in the world, ING. Gene was a lecturer, speaker at legal and industry conventions, seminars and meetings. A prolific writer, he authored numerous legal publications even to include Law Review on Iowa water pollution laws. Throughout Gene's life he served on numerous boards and committees, including: ING, the 7th largest company in the world, as General Counsel. Let us never overlook his constant press to improve education.

"Gene Copeland Day" was declared March 1, 2000, by **Denver Mayor Wellington Webb**, which included a parade and keys to the city. Some of Gene's interests were fine arts, cross-country skiing, classical music, visiting the sick and elderly at various facilities, and traveling around the world. Left to share Gene's memories are many cousins and many good friends in Fairfield, Colorado, and all over the world. He also leaves behind his beloved cats, Fred and Mika.

To say Gene was an accomplished human being is quite the understatement, and now he goes to his eternal reward to hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Amen.

Funeral service was June 16, 2018, at First United Methodist Church. Burial with Military Honors was held at Evergreen Cemetery...

Parsons College Alumni Website

Check out our FREE 3-DAY trial viewing of the Parsons College Alumni Association website at: www.parsonscollegealumni.com.

(For information as to how to access this site, how to use this site, and how to pay to enroll and become a member, CONTACT KEN RICE at Kfarm12@aol.com

It's a WINNER!!

"If At First You Don't Succeed...Try Something Else!"

65'nWise

My Last Day At Parsons College! *by Nancy Schwartz Wirtanen*

The students and faulty were called together on Friday June 1st,1973 in Brown Learning Center. The acting President **Everett Hadley** announced that the college will be closing their doors after the last commencement exercise on Saturday June 2nd, 1973. Many students were unable to find seats and listened in stun silence. A few sobbed and others, including some long time faculty members held back tears.

The saddest sight on campus was in front of Barhydt Chapel. The old green & white colors flying at half-mast in mourning. There were all kinds of media as well as recruiters on campus trying to recruit students. At the time they were the last people you wanted to talk with. It was a very somber mood.

Cathy Killian Levine and I, along with some other classmates, attended the bankruptcy hearing in Des Moines. The student body tried raising enough money to keep the school open. By collecting change and holding car washes. We were so close but no cigar. The court wouldn't give us an extension.

'A Sad, Sad Day'

The Saddest Sight: The Green & White colors flying at half mast in mourning of the Parsons closing.

As I recall, we had 24 hours to get off campus because the electricity and phone service had been turned off. You had to scramble to get packed and find a way to have your things shipped. I had checked around and found that Trailways would be the cheapest way to ship my things back east. I had a friend take it all to the Trailways station and had my things shipped. My parents drove me out the very first time and since then, I never had all my things back home.

I was devastated by the news that Parsons was closing its doors. It had to be the worse day of my life. What was I going to do? I had one year left. I thought about going to the University of Iowa, but at the last minute I decided that was way to big of a school. It wasn't until the Epperson's came east recruiting for Simpson College, that I decided I would finish there. Simpson was a Methodist school just south of Des Moines. They didn't welcome us with open arms. They would say, "Are you one of them?" It was hard fitting in.

This is why I want to see the spirit of Parsons stay alive. "We're the little school that refuses to die".

A Severe Blow To Fairfield…

'Insurmountable Odds' Close The Doors of Parsons College Forever

TASTING THE BITTERNESS OF DEFEAT. Acting President Everett Hadley sits glumly and alone after informing students and faculty that Parsons College must close.

NEWS & NOTES

BARHYDT WINDOWS FOR SALE??? – The remaining stained glass window panels from the Barhydt Chapel have been in storage in Fairfield for the past year. With the sudden glut of stain glass windows from church closings, prospects of selling the windows to a developer have dwindled. So now, it is quite possible that to liquidate the windows, they may be offered to the public at a very reasonable price. Currently the windows are crated and nicely labeled. Pieces from the historic chapel could make a neat addition to the home or to a number of other creative projects. The Parsons College Foundation Fund is managing the project. It is expected that any income derived will be directed to the Carnegie Historical Museum. STAY TUNED!!!

These 26 crates of Barhydt Chapel window panels may soon be looking for a permanent new home.

CARNEGIE HISTORICAL MUSEUM PROGRESS??? – Under the curatorship of Mark Shafer and an abundance of effort from our Dr. Kay Ferguson and Dr. Biff Kummer, the forward progress has been terrific. Building inspections have been done and we'll soon have an idea as to the cost it will take to restore and bring the building up to 2018 code. A number one concern is the condition, upgrading, and possible redesigning of the elevator. A new CARNEGIE HISTORICAL MUSEUM sign design has been drafted by local architect Kent Whitney, 5th generation owner of Whitney Monument Works in Fairfield and has been submitted to the Carnegie Historical Foundation board for review. Why should Parsons Alums be so concerned and wrapped up in the CHM? Well...because in addition to the museum housing the local city, county and regional history, including artifacts from the civil war, it also is the last remaining home of PARSONS COLLEGE memorabilia and artifacts. If the CHM goes away, so does our history.

FAIR FIELD PRODUCTIONS – Under the able direction of local resident Dick DeAngelis, FFP is well into documentary on the history or Fairfield and the surrounding southeastern Iowa area. Dick and team are putting together an 8-part video series. The first chapter, "Life Before Fair Field" received excellent reviews. Chapter two "Heroes of Fairfield" will be previewed at the end of June.

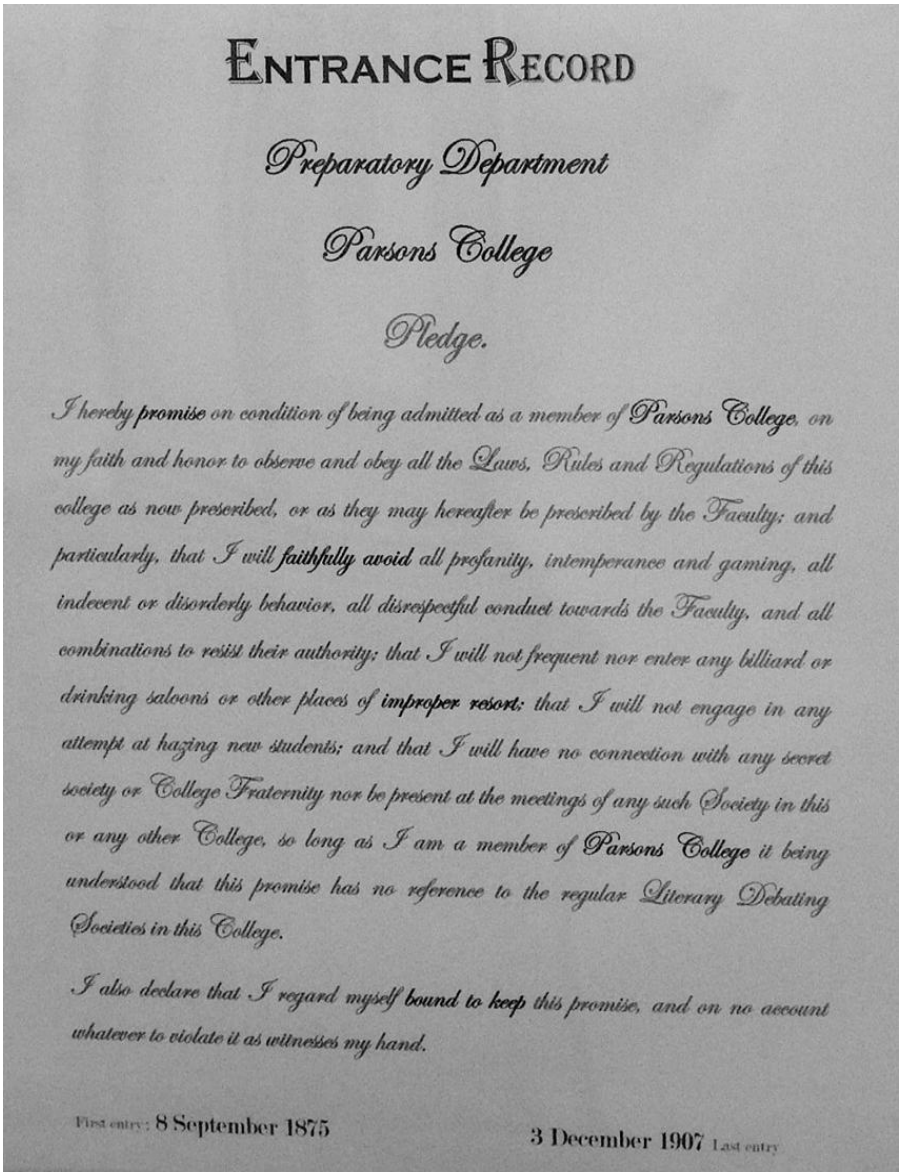
VIRGINIA PICKERELL JOINS PCAA BOARD – We are delighted to announce that Virginia Langner Pickerell has joined the Parsons College Alumni Board of Directors and will serve as recording secretary. Virginia was a member of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority at Parsons and graduated in 1962. She is replacing Marion Jennings who resigned after several years of much appreciated service. Good luck to Marion, and welcome aboard, Virginia.

PCAA ALUMNI DIRECTORY – President Nancy Wirtanen has reported that she's well past the 3,500 mark with Alumni names and contact information which comprises the Alumni Directory. In fact, her total now is right at 3,691, well on her way to her goal of over 4,000 names. Great job!!!

REGIONAL REUNIONS – There's been some discussion that since our Alumni base is getting up in years, aches and pains are on the rise, and travel can be a bit challenging, that we initiate Regional Reunions. For example, Nancy lives in Arizona and therefore she would Chair/Host a southwest reunion in Phoenix/Scottsdale area. Nancy further reports that she's got commitments from some of our Alums to host various areas of the country. She's got commitments from persons to host New York, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Florida, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. And she's got leads in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. This could be a neat approach to our reunion plans going forward.

"THE PARSONS STUDENT ENTRANCE PLEDGE", CIRCA 1875 - 1907

No question, the overall character of Parsons College for much of its 99 years came right out of this illustrious Student Entrance Pledge. It was originally a mandatory pledge each incoming student was anywhere from humbled to thrilled to recite during the first 32 years of Parsons College's operation.
What became of it after 1907 is anyone's guess. After one year shy of a third of a century of church-backed education and operation, were Parsons College students now not bound to its previous code of ethics, morals and conduct?
Did its Board of Directors know something about secret societies and fraternities of the times and therefore banned them from campus? Or did the college simply want to ward off future social mis-behavior, slight or otherwise?
After reading Parsons College's original Student Entrance Pledge a time or two and pondering it for a spell, we hope some casual and personal feedback is in order.
Everyone of us is an equal, but some may be more privy to how life and times were 111 to 143 years ago than the rest of us.
Abiding to the Pledge for some might be taxing. For others, not so much. But it's what our illustrious college asked of each and every student during its first 32 years...



ENTRANCE RECORD

Preparatory Department

Parsons College

Pledge.

I hereby ***promise*** *on condition of being admitted as a member of Parsons College, on my faith and honor to observe and obey all the Laws, Rules and Regulations of this college as now prescribed, or as they may hereafter be prescribed by the Faculty; and particularly, that I will* ***faithfully avoid*** *all profanity, intemperance and gaming, all indecent or disorderly behavior, all disrespectful conduct towards the Faculty, and all combinations to resist their authority; that I will not frequent nor enter any billiard or drinking saloons or other places of* ***improper resort;*** *that I will not engage in any attempt at hazing new students; and that I will have no connection with any secret society or College Fraternity nor be present at the meetings of any such Society in this or any other College, so long as I am a member of Parsons College it being understood that this promise has no reference to the regular Literary Debating Societies in this College.*

I also declare that I regard myself ***bound to keep*** *this promise, and on no account whatever to violate it as witnesses my hand.*

First entry: 8 September 1875 — 3 December 1907 Last entry

Parsons College Alumni Website

Check out our FREE 3-DAY trial viewing of the Parsons College Alumni Association website at: www.parsonscollegealumni.com.

(For information as to how to access this site, how to use this site, and how to pay to enroll and become a member, CONTACT KEN RICE at Kfarm12@aol.com

It's a WINNER!!

Phi Sigs Take On Spring Break In Venice, Florida

A group of 10 Phi Sigma Epsilon Bros including wives gathered in Venice, FL the weekend of February 17-18 to celebrate Spring Break. **Bob Montgomery** hosted the event at his Eagle Point Resort Cottage. An extended HAPPY HOUR played through the afternoon and dinner was enjoyed by all at the Salt Water Cafe in Venice...

PHOTO LEFT: Sitting L/R – Bob Montgomery, Barbara Slezak, Tody Pillsbury; Standing L/R – Ray Stolarczyk, Fred Emde, Neil Slezak, John LeRoux, Bob Pillsbury, Fran LeRoux. Not pictured John Blackstock.

Rumor Has it.....

> **Sue Hall** will be hosting a number of **Alpha Gams** in New Orleans this Fall... True? Or False??

> Could it be that the **Alpha Xi Delta's** 'FUN BUNCH' are tripping to Albuquerque, New Mexico to check out the 'Hot Air Balloon' rides?? True?? Or False??

> The **Sig Eps** will be in Omaha, NE October 12-14... Be THERE!!!

PEIRA YEARBOOKS AVAILABLE

The following yearbooks are available through ***Ed Longanecker*** at: emlong2@iowatelecom.net

1968, 1967, 1966 (supplement), 1965, 1964, 1960, 1951, 1950, 1948, 1947, 1946, 1944, 1943, 1942, 1941, 1940, 1938, 1930, 1928, 1927, 1924, 1921, 1917, 1914, 1912, 1911, 1909, 1908.

Look back into the early years and history of Parsons with a yearbook from yesteryear!!

Just Do It!!!

Letters To The Editor...

Thank you for the Parsons E-Newsletter. I always find it interesting, it brings back such happy memories as well as new items. Again, Thank you,
Nathaniel Weisenstein, PC'71-'73... nat_man_w@hotmail.com

I want to thank you and your crew for your work keeping all of us informed about the latest Parsons news. **Nancy Hendren Kirby** (obituary last issue) and I were very good friends. I spoke to her just a few weeks before her death, she was a really fine lady. We graduated together in 1966, and she visited me and my family in Washington, DC many times over the years. I last visited her in Florida in 2008. I noticed in your latest newsletter that yearbooks were available for some of the past years. When I moved to my home here in Mexico I sent my Aunt Ferne's yearbook (Ferne Young, my father's oldest half sister, 1918), along with some other memorabilia, to George Jordan, thinking that he would probably do the kind of thing which you are now doing. I think you may know that most of my relatives attended Parsons, my father, **Glenn W Brier**, graduated in 1936, my brother, Patrick D. in 1968, and all of my father's brothers and sisters, although some of them didn't finish. My father's student handbook was among the things I sent to George. I am still in the music business, even after retiring. I have a recording studio here, and still do a little music for television, as well as performing with three different musical groups. My music education at Parsons, under the late Kenneth Carpenter, opened the doors to a career in writing music for TV, starting with children's shows, and when I retired I was working for National Geographic and The American Experience. Thanks again for your newsletter, I hope you might be able to find George Jordan.
Richard Paul Brier, PC'66... paulbrier2112@yahoo.com

It's not unusual to not recognize any names in the e-news. I was a Parsons letterman all 4 years I attended Parsons. I graduated in '49 so that's why there are few people of my age group mentioned. I do enjoy reading it however. Back in '49, I and two classmates were in charge of the 20 minute chapel session that was required at that time in beautiful old Barhydt Chapel. One of my classmates was a good pianist and he was going to play the grand piano for the students to sing a hymn. I went to lift the lid on the grand and about a dozen pigeons flew out. It was a short chapel that a.m. A good memory however!
Doc Erickson, PC'49... docerickson@bellsouth.net

Wow! Just read the latest issue of the newsletter. Glad **Dr. Tree** is doing well. It is because of him and other Parsons faculty that I spent several decades teaching at different levels. I attended Parsons from 1960 to '63 before transferring to Iowa . In 1962 I spent a semester in Europe with other Parsons students.. Good experience. Ever hear from others on the trip? The leader from Fairfield was Yvonne don't recall a last name (Neely). **Foster Brenneman** and wife were the faculty people that went with us. He taught German at Parsons. I'm not sure I spelled his name correctly. As I recall there were about 25 or so students involved in the class. Thanks for your efforts.
James Bush, PC'63... jl2001ret@yahoo.com

The Iris City Cleaners in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa has created a Parsons logo mat. The decorative mat is 3' x 4' and made of nylon pile fabric with cleated nitrile rubber backing. If interested in purchasing this piece of memorabilia, contact Ed Longanecker via email at: emlong2@iowatelecom.net, fax at 319-385-9707, or call 888-485-9707. The price is $62.95+ shipping. (See page 20 for more PC memorabilia).

In Memoriam...

Carol Hope Brown

Carol Hope Brown, PC'n/a... of Fairfield passed away March 18, 2018 at the Sunnybrook Living Care Center in Fairfield. She was 96. Carol was born in Ordway, SD, moved to Iowa when she was three years old and graduated Fairfield High School in 1939. She later graduated from Parsons with a degree in education. Carol was united in marriage to Stanley Brown (deceased 2002) in 1942. Prior to retirement in 1980, she taught at Valley, Little Brick, near Richland, Cross Lanes, near Batavia, Washington Elementary in Fairfield and at Libertyville. Carol was a member of the Retired Teachers Association, Literary Guild and Batavia United Methodist Church. She is survived by one step-daughter, two step-grandchildren, five step-great grandchildren and six step-great-great grandchildren. Funeral services were provided by Cranston Family Funeral Home of Batavia...

Ruth Elaine (Lawrence) Caris, PC'n/a... of Minneapolis, MN died May 8, 2018 at the Mt. Oliver Nursing Home in Minneapolis. She was 95. Originally born in Mt. Pleasant, she was married to Bill Caris in 1944. She received her B.A. Degree from Parsons in elementary education and taught in Albert Lea, MN and Rosemount, MN. Carol is survived by her three children, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Funeral and burial services were handled by Murphy Funeral Home of Mt. Pleasant...

Ruth Elaine Caris

John "Jack" Downing

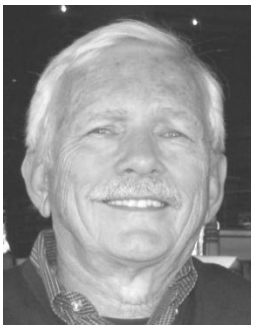
John (Jack) Ripley Downing, PC'67... of Melbourne, FL passed away March 30, 2018 in Melbourne. Jack was originally from Hingham, MA. He attended Parsons from 1965-67, majored in psychology and was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity. He also served on Student Court, the IFC and was a member of the Psychology and Sociology clubs. Jack met his wife Sue (Alpha Gamma Delta) at Parsons and they were married for over 50 years. He spent the better part of his 32 years working career in Financial Services and as a broker in the Life Insurance business. Jack had three children and four grandchildren. No further information is available at this time...

Debra Ayleen Dreier, PC'64... of Manhattan Beach, CA died April 21, 2018. She was 75. Debra was born in Hubbard, IA, grew up on a farm and graduated Hubbard High School in 1960 and Parsons in 1964, where she was a member of the Alpha Xi Delta Sorority. Following graduation she moved to California and became a lifetime resident. Debra taught for 37 years for the Los Angeles City Schools and was a revered basketball, softball and track coach to many at Markham Jr. High, Jordan High School and Venice High School. She was named the "1987 Distinguished Los Angeles City Schools Coach of the Year" and had a reputation for developing championship caliber teams. After retiring in 2001, she joined a team mission with Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots to a Aboriginal village in northern Canada and served as Activity Coordinator.

Debra Ayleen Dreier

Her love of church and community led Debra to being deeply involved with church and community, chairing committees and creating new programs. Some of those activities included California Retired Teachers Association, South Bay Association of American University Women, Sons of Norway, Immanuel Lutheran Church's Green Thumb Gardeners, 1st Lutheran Church Stewardship Board and she volunteered for Habitat for Humanity.

(Continued on page 17)

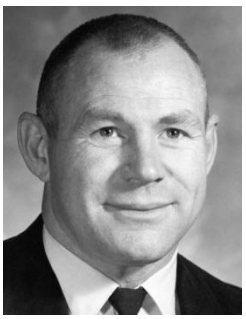


Walter P. Githens II

Walter P. Githens II, PC'n/a...age 74, died peacefully in his home January 30, 2018 of prostate cancer. He was 74. Walt was born in New Haven, Connecticut, graduated from Rocky River High School (Ohio) in 1961. He attended MacMurray College, graduated from Parsons College and earned his MBA at Drake University. During the first blackout of New York City in November of 1965, he was united in marriage to Sandra Lind. They have called Des Moines home for the last 52 years. Walt began his career with IBM, following in his father's footsteps. He and his son Walter successfully built Heritage Payroll Services. His analytical approach enabled him to expand Heritage to a dominant regional company. When he retired in 2011, Heritage Payroll Services was purchased by a national firm. Walt was methodical and competitive in business and athletics. The Walkers are proud three-time, father-son swim champs at Echo Valley Country Club. Walt was active in the community, including Plymouth Congregational Church and Rotary Club of Des Moines. He lived his life out loud; loud being the operative word. He blew his horn at ISU football games and loved setting off fireworks. Walt and Sandra celebrated 52 years of marriage. He is survived by his wife, two children and five grandchildren...

Jerard Bernerd Hoage, PC'59 ... of Fairfield passed away March 6, 2018 at the Iowa Veterans Hospital in Marshalltown. He was 85. Jerard was born at the Jefferson County Hospital in. He attended Roosevelt Elementary, Buchanan #4 Country School and Fairfield High where he graduated in 1951. Jerard was the first in his family to graduate. He married Ilene Maxwell in 1953 and they remained together 46 years until her passing. Jerard served his country during the Korean conflict and upon his honorable discharge in 1955, returned home, enrolled at Parsons and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 1959. He worked as an engineer for several companies including, Dexter, Fairfield Engineering and Loudens, to name a few. Jerard was a true entrepreneur and inventor, holding 11 patents. He is survived by his four children, seven grand children, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. A funeral service with military honors was held at the Suburban Heights Baptist Church in Fairfield...

Jerard Bernerd Hoage



Lloyd Jerome

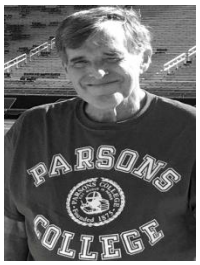
L. Lloyd Jerome, PC'51... of Council Bluffs, IA. passed away May 7, 2018. Lloyd was 90. Lloyd was born in Centerville, IA on October 14, 1927. He graduated from Centerville High School with the class of 1945, attended college at Centerville Junior College and later, Parsons College from 1949-1951. Lloyd retired from the Council Bluffs Community School District after 39 years. He also served in the National Guard for 34 years. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Wilson Jerome and sister, Florence Sanders. Lloyd is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara Jerome; children, Mary Beth Hummel (James), Lori Ann Jerome, John Christopher Jerome (Erin), Aaron Daniel Jerome; grandchildren, Emily Hummel, Ami Kellogg (Ryan), Kathleen Hummel (Sean Nienow), Skylar Jerome, Alexis Jerome, Aubraya Jerome, Samuel Jerome; great grandson, Parker Kellogg.

Eleanor Lee (Thomas) Maggard, PC'n/a... of Salem, MO passed away January 9, 2018 at the age of 74. She was born in Winchester, Kentucky and was united in marriage to Eugene Maggard in Cantonsville, MD. Eleanor graduated from Cantonsville High School in 1961. Her college years were spent at Columbia College, University of Missouri and Parsons College. Eleanor was a teacher for 30 plus years and retired from Salem R-80. She was active in the Dent County Retired Teachers organization and volunteered to be an after-school tutor. Eleanor became involved in the tourism industry and worked to improve tourism in Missouri. She and Eugene were inducted into the Missouri Division of

(Continued on page 18)

Eleanor Thomas Maggard

Tourism Hall of Fame. Eleanor worked at Akers Ferry Canoe Rental, promoting Akers Ferry on the Current River. Over the years, she held many offices within the tourism industry. Eleanor was passionate about preserving the heritage and history of both Dent and Shannon Counties especially the Akers area and the upper Current River. She served as Secretary of the Dent County Child Welfare Advisory Board, Salem Hospital Auxiliary and Secretary of the Missouri Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds, member of the Jacks Fork Watershed, member of the Friends of Mt. Zion, and served on the Travel Council representing the Ozark Heritage District. She was an active member of the Salem Christian Church, a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, and Red Hats Society. Eleanor is survived by her husband, one son, five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter...



Rich "Boomer Mentzer

Richard W. "Boomer" Mentzer, PC'67-'68... of Portage, MI died June 9, 2018. He was 70 years old. Rich spent a good portion of his life living in Michigan. An easterner at heart he loved his Philadelphia Phillies and adopted the Detroit Tigers. Rich worked as a consultant to SBC, Quest and Long Distance of Michigan. Upon retirement he moved to Florida and reconnected with many of his Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity brothers. Suffered from a number of heart issues and blockage over the years but never lost his positive upbeat spirit. Rich was married and divorced and had two sons. He will be remembered as a fun loving, generous man. No further information is available at this time...

Ruth O'Dean Ratekin

Ruth O'Dean Ratekin, PC'48... of Cedar Falls, IA passed away December 30, 2017 at the Western Home Communities Nation Cottage in Cedar Falls. She was 90. Ruth was born in Jefferson County, attended Fairfield High School, received a B.A. degree cum laude from Parsons in 1948 and a M.A. in business education from University of Northern Iowa in 1975. She taught business and office education courses at a number of schools and served on the board and was an officer for Iowa, North Central and National Business Education Associations. Ruth received the 'Outstanding Iowa Business Educator Award' in 1987 and was awarded the Lloyd C. Douglas Business Educator Alumni Award from UNI in 1989. Upon retirement she and husband Ned established the Carlson House Bed & Breakfast in Swedesburg. Ruth belonged to the First Presbyterian Church and served as a ruling elder in congregations for several cities. She is survived by her husband, three sons, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren...

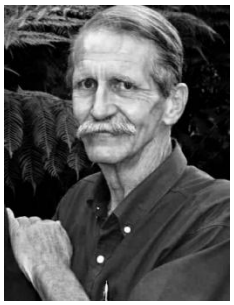
Marvin Septer

Marvin Leland Septer, PC'n/a... of Fairfield died November 27, 2017. He was 77. Marvin was born in Henry County and was married to Norene Craig. Their marriage lasted 55 years. Marvin worked for the Fairfield Community School District for 35 years. While teaching he coached Junior High football and track over 27 years and held various school offices at local and state levels. He sponsored Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Teen Coe Republicans and was President of Fairfield Kiwanis. Marvin had numerous outside interests including hunting, fishing mushroom hunting, honey bees and gardening. He is survived by his wife, three sons and three grandchildren. Funeral arrangements for the family were handled by the Behner Funeral Home...

Mac Stewart

Mac Stewart, PC''66-'69... of Winter Haven, FL passed away May 29, 2018 quietly at TGH with his children, Chase and Stephanie, by his side. He was 71. A gregarious giant of a man full of strength, warm heartedness and an infallible devotion to his family and friends has now 'gone home.' Mac was a member of the Wildcats football team and coached for many years at Winter Haven High School. A Celebration of Life Service was held at Parkland Baptist Church in Winter Haven on Sunday June 3rd at 2pm...

(Continued on page 19)



Alan Rockefeller

Alan Rockefeller, PC'64-'67... *(Eulogy written by Bill Bangham)* It was the eyes I remember most. Questioning eyes, with a twinkle, and a promise of mischief. The wrinkles which became so prominent later, were already beginning to play around their edges. Then there was the mouth. A half grin, tentative like the eyes. Half open, teeth showing, ready to break open, causing the eyes to squint. The laugh came after. Full throated, echoing out of chambers deep within him. Rocky and I became instant friends. We were foolish young men, doing what foolish young men do, playing out who we would become. Sometimes taking things too seriously, sometimes not seriously enough. Prone to long, late-night philosophical discussions, falling asleep before we could finish them. Watching the girls, sometimes chasing them, seldom catching one. Occasionally drinking too much, but never having enough money to make it a problem. Two extroverts in the making, seeking out the crowds to draw energy from. Looking for adventures on the cheap; pizza shared with so many friends there was often less than a slice for each, a midnight swim in a quarry or at the waterworks reservoir, hitchhiking to another town with no purpose in mind, and empty pockets. Toward the end of our college years, we began to drift apart. I became an occasional student, drifting in- and-out semesters, working to come back when I was not there. When I was there, working to stay. I remember the last time at school I saw Rocky. It was his birthday. He wanted to celebrate, I had a big chemistry exam the next day. Not long after that, he headed west, and I east, to live on opposite coasts. It was 30 years before we saw each other again. Relationships done well in our youth are easily refreshed. We spilled our lives into of those empty decades, filling the void between us. In the intervening years, there have been emails, and an occasional call, until last summer. I arrived in Phoenix on assignment for a week. By happenstance, the events I was to cover the first day were canceled, and Rocky and I spent it together. It was a good day. We talked about the possibility of it being our last time together. We filled the remaining gaps, finished our conversations. Our friendship was complete. Except for one thing: I miss you, my friend. Sunday, March 4, 2018

Darcy Mellen-Sullivan

Darcy Mellen-Sullivan, PC'69-'73... age 67 from Naples, FL and Grosse Pointe, MI passed away peacefully March 16, 2018 after the return of breast cancer which she battled valiantly for seven years. Darcy was born in Cedar Rapids, and raised in Fairfield. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Foreign Languages from Parsons and earned a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Drake University. After graduate school, she spent 11 years helping to develop computerized counseling programs at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Her love for foreign language began in high school and she turned it into a career teaching French in Eldon, IA. Darcy went on to become Executive Director of the French American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan. In addition to her passion for languages, theater, art and travel, Darcy adored the ocean with 700 scuba dives around the world. She was the sort of person who never met a stranger! She is survived by her loving husband, Jack, of nearly 47 years, one son and two grandsons and dozens of other family members and friends throughout the country.. A celebration of life was held in Naples, FL...

Larry Wells

Larry Wells, PC'62... of Stockport, IA passed away peacefully January 29, 2018. He was 77. Larry was born in Van Buren County. He proudly served in the Air Force and graduated from Parsons College with a degree in Business Administration in 1962. Larry married Karen Brown, his wife of 49 years in 1968. His first priority was his family. Larry had a strong Christian faith and was always in service to others, especially the elderly. He had a passion for cars and enjoyed sports of all kinds. Surviving are his wife, a son, two daughters, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. The Funeral Service was held at the Stockport Christian Church...

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You've always wanted a ***PARSONS COLLEGE PENNANT***! Now here it is!!! We're continuing our offering and ordering and shipping procedures with the actual producer of this memorabilia, which is FAIRFIELD LINE, INC, located in Fairfield. The photo items shown below will now be available in ALL sizes (S through 3X), and in both green and white. So if you've ever thought about, or contemplated, owning a piece of Parsons College memorabilia, there's no time like the present. You can now own that Parsons College T-shirt, golf shirt, sweatshirt, hoodie, hat or visor, and NOW, the NEW PARSONS PENNANT, at a reasonable prices. Here's how to order: **(SEE BELOW)**

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