

Class of 1976 50th Reunion Newsletter

Alumni Weekend June 4-7, 2026

November 2025 Edition



Recognize Ellis Hall? Come to our 50th Reunion in June and see the changes on Juniata's campus. Reach out to your circle of friends and watch the memories flow. Juniata College invites our class of '76 to return to campus in June 2026 to celebrate our 50th reunion. Did you remember to save the dates and book reservations?

When? Next June: Thursday through Sunday, June 4-7, 2026

When to Register for Alumni Weekend
– Juniata's online registration for Alumni Weekend events will open in the spring.

Class of '76 Exclusive Thursday Happenings!



Remember all those nights at JC when you holed up in your dorm room and studied? **We think NOT!** However, bet some of these memories will strike a chord: Keg parties, All Class Night skits, The REAL Storming of the Arch, Billy Joel concert, Streaking, the Stag Bowl ...

Our upcoming 50th Class Reunion is the opportunity to revisit these and other special memories.

🔔 Thursday evening there's a '76 Class Cook-out. A casual reception, a large stone deck, and fireplace with Campus-wide views. Supper-club meal & atmosphere, every tune a memory - the Campus to ourselves. This will be a compelling and fun-filled reunion event! You will not want to miss it. Can we count you in?

Reserve a room now! Juniata has special room blocks and rates at several hotels and motels in the area. Or check out vacation homes, inns, resorts, cottages, and cabins that previous groups have enjoyed. For more information on the hotel blocks and links to alternative housing websites, visit: <https://www.juniata.edu/alumni/alumni-events/alumni-weekend/accommodations.php> or use the QR code. Limited on-campus residence hall accommodations are available during Alumni Weekend and can be reserved online in the spring.



Will you attend the Reunion? Look who's planning to come, so far!

Jerry Blecker
Lynn Chaplin
Cindy (Gilbert) Clarke
Guy Cooper
Ann Dunlavy
Mary Beth (Campbell) Emmons
Bruce Erb
Dan Ereditario
Mark Francischetti
Nancy (Nordberg) Glaeser
Steve Holsinger

Elaine (Becker) Jones
Charles Kerekes
Cathy (Crouse) Kunkel
Don Leauber
Diane (Dawson) Lindstrom
Don Martin
Jack McCullough
Janet Mercincavage
Bob Orr
Karen (Lotz) Orr
Nancy Preston

Ruth Randall
Claudia (Pierson) Simmons
Sam Sirianni
Brad Sterl
Cheryl (Dettmar) Stites
George Trim
Cindy (Hill) Valko
Mike Werley
Jeff Wood
Charlie Zorger

Hope we can add your name soon! Let us know if you plan to attend. Respond to the Questionnaire or send an email to Bekah at fordr@juniata.edu. It will be fun to see everyone again!

Memory Questions

October newsletter question:

Who was your favorite professor and why?

Frank Wiley '76 writes:

My favorite teacher was Ron Cherry. As I said at the time of his untimely passing, he taught us by challenging us to "think outside the box" well before that term became mainstream popular. This practice served me very well in grad school and my career.

Hey Frank, thanks for answering the question!

November newsletter question:

How did you feel about our academic calendar - having 3 terms instead of 2 semesters? Was it an advantage or disadvantage in your mind?

Love to hear from you! Send answers, questions, and comments to Nancy, nancyep76@hotmail.com



Class of 1976 Legacy Gift Selection - The Class of 1976 Legacy Committee—led by Brad Sterl and including Father Sam Sirianni, Steve Holsinger, and Elaine Jones—met to consider options for our class gift. When the opportunity to sponsor Juniata College's new gateway entrances was presented, the committee enthusiastically endorsed the idea.

Until recently, visitors to Juniata had little indication of when they were entering campus. Creating distinct gateways to mark the college's boundaries represents an exciting step forward in celebrating and

strengthening Juniata's presence. Our class gift will help underwrite the existing brick gateway at Moore Street and support construction of a new gateway at the intersection of Cold Springs Road and College Avenue.

These entrances will not only enhance the campus's appearance but also serve as proud symbols of Juniata's identity. In addition, the gateways will include a commemorative element displayed near the plaque honoring Juniata's founding in 1876—an especially meaningful connection for the Class of 1976, the college's 100th graduating class. The Legacy Committee is confident this project will be a lasting and visible tribute to our class's spirit and commitment to Juniata.

We invite you to join us in supporting this meaningful initiative. If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the gateway project, please contact any member of the Legacy Committee or reach out to Randall Sawyer, Director of Major Gifts, at 814-641-3114.

“Then and Now”	
Cindy (Hill) Valko '76 asks: How many in our class remember the “Slave Auction”? Needless to say, many things have changed in 50 years, thank you very much! Now at Juniata there is a Mr. Juniata which many of you may not be familiar but it is far different from 50 years ago, thank goodness. A few memories and/or facts on our Theme of, “Now and Then” *Freshman women were eligible 50 years ago; *Totally voluntary to enter *“Contestants” walked around on stage just like Miss America! *Upper classmen would bid on someone who would agree to do homework, laundry, cleaning and run errands for them *Of course, most of the time it was a popularity contest! *Good news – the proceeds went to the class!	Bekah Ford '19, from Juniata's Alumni Engagement office says, “Yes, things have definitely changed since 1976, but you'd be surprised to see how similar things are even today! Mr. Juniata is a competition where two men from each class year compete against each other, showing off their talent, dance ability, and charisma for an audience and panel of judges. Look below to compare and contrast it with your memories! • Two men from each class compete • Totally voluntary to enter • Contestants perform a talent, dance with the Juniata kickline, and show off various costumes • A panel of judges, usually composed of beloved faculty and staff, determines which contestant earns the title Mr. Juniata • Of course, there is also a vote for the fan favorite too! • Each contestant is raising money for a charity of their choosing.
More comparisons?	

From your Communications Committee - This is our second monthly newsletter, and it is being sent to you, as promised, via email. We hope we have your correct email address; please let us know if it has changed. Remember to save this address to your email and mark it as “not junk” so all future messages go to your inbox. You are encouraged to share photos and memories. Feel free to write an article or pose questions - we'll include them next time around.

We are beginning to prepare the "**Class of 1976 50th Reunion Booklet**" for distribution in June and we need your help! The booklet is a collection of bios, then & now pictures, and anything else you wish to share. This is YOUR REUNION BOOKLET so we would love to have as many classmates as possible respond to the **Questionnaire**, prepare your bios, and send in photos. This wonderful keepsake offers memories and stories for you to treasure. The more information and number of classmates, the more valuable this will be for years to come! Be part of the celebration! Access the questionnaire here: <https://forms.gle/cihnQBxrn1LQmBEAA> or by using the QR code to the right.



Speaking of bios, Elaine Jones offered to share hers for this November newsletter:



THEN



NOW

Bio - Elaine V. (Becker) Jones, '76

I entered Juniata as part of the Class of 1976 but completed my B.S. early, graduating in August 1975 to marry my Juniata sweetheart, Keith ('75) Jones. Following advice from my advisor, Dr. Robert Zimmerer, I earned my Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1981. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the NIH, Keith and I moved to Philadelphia in 1984, where I began a 35-year career in the pharmaceutical industry—first in research, then business development, and finally venture capital. I joined SR One (GSK's venture arm) in 1999 and retired from Pfizer Ventures in 2019. I now serve on boards of biotechnology companies, helping guide strategies for the development of new medicines.

Keith and I have two children—Christopher (Juniata '03) and Samantha—and six wonderful grandchildren, ages 4 to 16. Chris and his wife, Angela Montag Jones (Juniata '01) live in California but we are fortunate to have Samantha's family living near us. Being a grandparent is the best!

I enjoy reading, cooking, and traveling. Recently, our family toured the Galapagos Islands and then Keith and I took a safari in Tanzania. Jordan and Egypt are next on our list but we hope to be able to continue traveling to all of our "bucket list" destinations.

Since joining Juniata's Board of Trustees in 2014, I've loved reconnecting with alumni, faculty, and college leadership. While the campus looks a bit different, Juniata's spirit and commitment to a personal, rigorous liberal arts education remain unchanged. I hope you'll join us at our 50th reunion to see for yourselves!

The '76 Reunion Committee Members are committed to making our milestone 50th Reunion memorable. With support from Bekah Ford, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement and Randall Sawyer, Director of Major Gifts, our classmate volunteers are gearing up for a great reunion and encourage classmates, friends, and acquaintances to attend the Reunion and reconnect with Juniata.

The **Legacy Committee** oversees our 50th reunion gift.

Chair: Brad Sterl, bsterl@bradsterlassociates.com

Members: Elaine (Becker) Jones
Steve Holsinger
Sam Sirianni

The **Social Committee** plans the weekend's activities and serves as hosts when Alumni Weekend arrives.

Co-Chair: Guy Cooper, gcoops3@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Cheryl (Dettmar) Stites, cdettmarstites@gmail.com

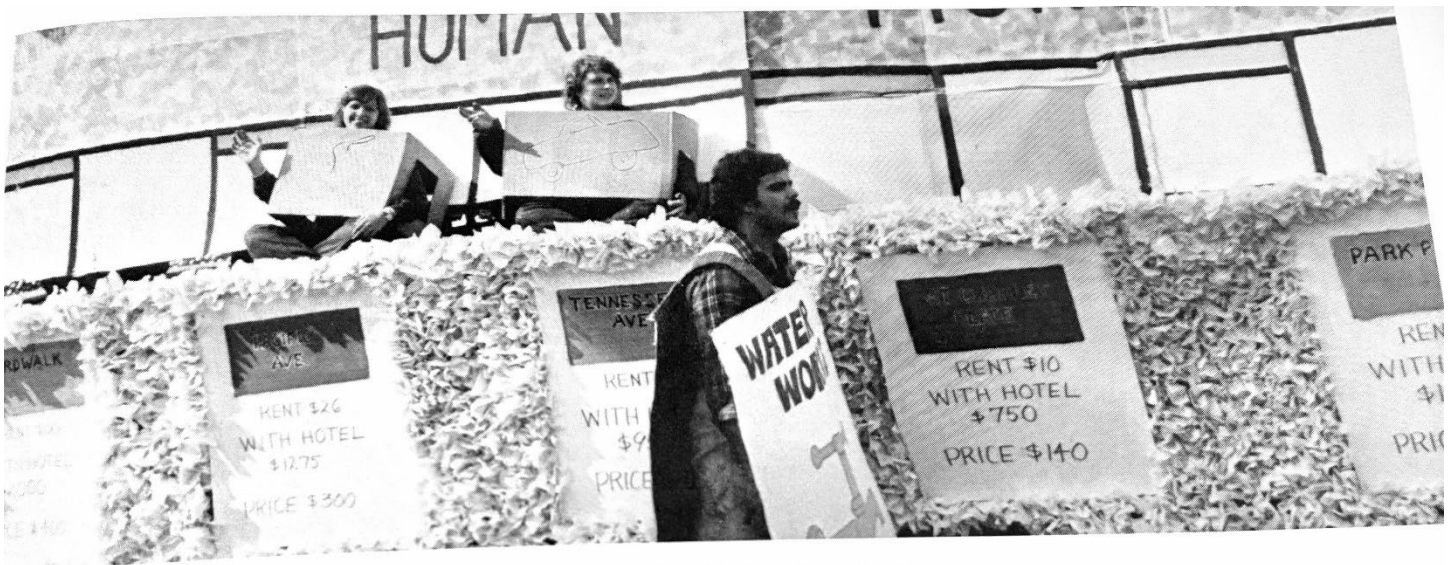
Members: Nancy (Nordberg) Glaeser
Diane (Dawson) Lindstrom
Bruce Erb
Mark Francischetti

The **Communications Committee** produces the newsletter and puts together our 50th Reunion Booklet.

Chair: Cindy (Hill) Valko, geocin@aol.com

Co-Chair: Nancy Preston

Members: Cindy (Gilbert) Clarke, clarkec@juniata.edu (Chair of the overall 1976 Reunion Committee)
Ann Dunlavy
Mary Beth (Campbell) Emmons
Karen (Lotz) Orr



The Senior Class Float

See you in June!



Celebrating 150 years of Inquiry, Integrity, and Service