

Class of 1976 50th Reunion Newsletter

Alumni Weekend June 4-7, 2026

May 2026 – **Final Edition!**



Online Registration for Alumni Weekend is now closed, but walk-in attendees are welcome!

When you arrive on campus for the weekend, please check-in at the on-site Registration Desk in Ellis Hall Lobby. The hours are below:

- Thursday, June 4: 3 - 8:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 5: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Saturday, June 6: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Sunday, June 7: 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Go to www.juniata.edu/alumniweekend to find the full schedule of events, accommodation details, a list of attendees, and more. **All Class of 1976 reunion events are free for members of the Class of 1976.** If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Alumni Office at 814-641-3443 or alumni@juniata.edu. Clara Jeske, Alumni Engagement Coordinator, will be happy to help.



Want to know who's coming to the Reunion? Check the official registration attendee list here:

<https://my.juniata.edu/s/1809/16/interior-1col.aspx?sid=1809&qid=2&pgid=1825&cid=5302&fid=5301>

Do you see someone you really want to see; an old roommate or a group of classmates you haven't seen or spoken to in a long time? Well, great news! You can still attend! **WALK-INS are welcome! It is never too late!!**

From our Legacy Gift Committee ...

Serving on the Legacy Gift Committee has given us a wonderful excuse to reconnect with many of you. It's been a genuine joy to renew old friendships and rediscover the spirit that made our class and College special. We are truly looking forward to seeing so many of you in person at the reunion. Of course, we know not everyone will be able to return to campus this June, but being part of our 50th Reunion effort doesn't depend on being there in person. **Each of us can still play a role in what our class achieves together.**

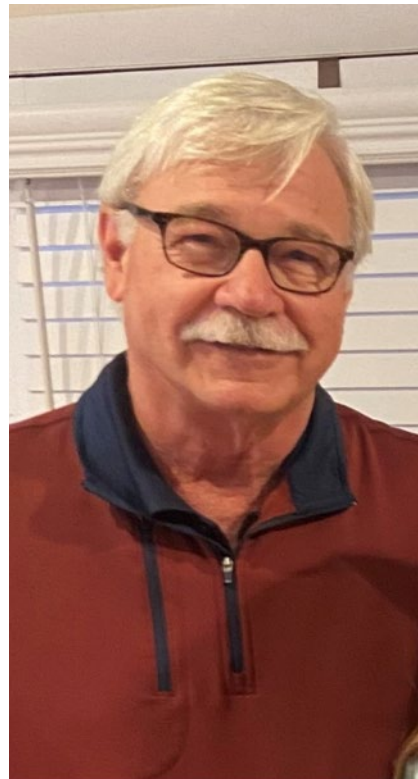
Right now, we are just 13 (as of May 15th) gifts away from reaching our 50% class participation goal. With the May 31 deadline approaching, we're incredibly close. A participation gift can be as simple as \$5, directed to whatever matters most to you—your favorite team, a scholarship, or any area of the College that feels meaningful. Reaching this goal is about more than a number. It means our class will be recognized at the top of the **Founders Steps**, an important symbol of our collective support of the College that helped shape the last 50 years. **And it helps the college raise funds from outside sources. It goes without saying that funders won't support a school that doesn't have good alumni participation.**



If you've already participated, thank you! If not, please consider joining your classmates in this final push to achieve our 50% class participation goal and make certain the Class of 1976 is recognized on the Founders Steps. Here is a link to give, which also shows how far we are from our goal number of participants: www.juniata.edu/1976legacy.

THANK YOU FOR WRITING YOUR BIOS!

The Reunion "Class Notes" Booklet currently has over 50 bio submissions. **If you haven't submitted your bio yet, you still can! Submit your bio to Karen Orr at bkorr77@gmail.com by the end of the day tomorrow Saturday, May 16 for inclusion in the booklet.** Thank you to everyone who participated! Reunion Booklets (paper copies) may be picked up by classmates who purchased them in the 1976 Hospitality Lounge. For your viewing pleasure, the digital version will be available before Reunion Weekend. A Special Thank You to Karen Orr '76 for contacting classmates and creating the bio booklet!



Bios - Bob and Karen (Lotz) Orr, Class of '76

Life After Juniata

Our journey continued in Huntingdon after graduation. We were married in May 1977. Bob stayed on at JB Kunz following an internship his senior year. A few changes in employers over the years in Huntingdon, but

always in the printing business. I worked in retail, human resources, Alumni Relations at Juniata, at a time as a stay-at-home mom, and ended with 17 years in school district central office administration.

After 35 plus years in Huntingdon, we moved to Timonium, MD in 2013. Bob and I were both ready for new career opportunities and knew that my parents were soon going to need attention that necessitated closer proximity. Bob has found his calling with Grainger, drawing on his science background from Juniata and applying sales and management skills! In the world of “where did you encounter a Juniata graduate” – I applied for a position as Executive Assistant to the General Counsel for The Johns Hopkins Health System, and was hired by Dan Shealer, Juniata class of 1981. We continue in these roles now – with mostly remote workdays and rewarding time to continue to learn!

We are thankful to be able to experience school and sporting events with our grandchildren. Jonathan and Alida also live in Timonium with Julianna (14) and Vivien (11). Meredith and Scott reside in Pleasant Gap, PA with Maverick (6) and Marlee (3). Bob is active on our condo board, and we have both served on various church committees. We look forward to beach trips a few times a year (always a special place for us). Our Juniata friendships have remained steadfast and loyal for 50 years – with gatherings several times a year.

As we celebrate 50 years since graduation, it is indeed a time to reflect on all the experiences those 5 decades have provided! I have had the privilege of coordinating the “Class Notes Reunion Book” for the Class of 1976 by being a member of the planning committee. Reconnecting with classmates has been rewarding and meaningful.

We all arrived in Huntingdon in the fall of 1972 – Modes of Thought and Methods of Inquiry, Writing Program, Program of Emphasis, became our lives. Roommates that we had not met in person – perhaps exchanged letters or phone calls! We learned about bio lab schedules, lesson plans, case studies, internships, Sheetz, hall phones, how to study! We came from rural areas and suburbs. Some followed a less “traditional” experience – living off campus, transferring, etc. Some played sports, some sang in the choir. What I have heard as a common thread from the 50 plus responses that also apply to Bob and me:

- Appreciative of my time at Juniata and the benefit of a liberal arts education
- Looking forward to being back on campus and seeing classmates
- Probably should have studied harder/paid a little more attention!
- Thankful for professors who challenged me, provided direction and advice when needed. Ron and Betty Ann Cherry, Bud Wise, Jim Lakso, Duane Stroman, Bob Fisher, Janet Lewis, Mary Miller, Bruce Davis and more

The bios have been personal and heartfelt. Not all the paths were simple or straightforward. But all had the foundation of their Juniata College experience. I appreciate each of the stories and the time you took to write and share!

Memory Question: What was your favorite place OFF campus?

Diane Lindstrom says “I loved the cliffs! Beautiful view and so peaceful.”
Thanks Diane! I bet there are lots of us who agree!



Class of '76 Memorabilia / Hospitality Lounge

We ALL need a little help **remembering** these days! Think what you can bring to campus that reminds you what it was like to be a student surrounded by new friends, **Modes of Thought**, and some crazy/wonderful times at JUNIATA in the 70's. Please look a little harder.... find any photos you have look for anything you saved that was important for you during your Juniata days. I found my college ID the other day... and old **Juniatians**. (the newspapers). We **will** be spending time in the Hospitality Room so anything you saved **will** spark a conversation! Send anything to me ... Nancy (Nordberg) Glaeser at (jonord@gmail.com) OR let me know what you are bringing! Thanks for helping make Reunion 2026 a new **special memory!** It's finally the time we can say "see you next month at Ellis!"

Friday Morning Panel Discussion (*Juniata Then and Now*) & Faculty Lunch

The Class of '76 is sponsoring a **panel discussion** on Friday morning about what has changed and what has stayed the same at Juniata in the last 50 years. Come and reminisce about the way it was when we were students and hear how things have evolved over the last 50 years. We will focus mostly on the social and academic aspects of student life.

We are delighted that the following emeriti and current faculty plus a current student agreed to be panelists:

- Betty Ann Cherry, Professor Emeritus
- Janet Lewis, Professor Emeritus
- Lauren Bowen, Provost
- Matt Powell, Professor of Geology
- Kevin Bowser, current student (POE: Peace and Conflict Studies)

Plan to arrive early to enjoy the **buffet breakfast bar** before the session. Following the panel discussion, our class will have **lunch** with the panelists as well as other local emeriti professors, including Jack Troy, Max and Bernice Heller and others. These faculty members helped shape the Juniata experience for generations of alumni, and we know many of you will enjoy reconnecting with them during the weekend.

The session is hosted by Class of '76 classmates Cherie Dettmar Stites and Bruce Erb, who will represent former students with some support from the audience. Looking forward to a lively discussion!

Hope you will join us! —Social Committee

Can't Make the Reunion In-Person? Pop In Virtually to Say Hello to Your Classmates!

While classmates are walking into dinner on Saturday evening, we'll open a brief virtual gathering for those unable to attend Alumni Weekend in person. It will be a fun and informal opportunity to "pop-in," say hello, see familiar faces, and feel part of the reunion celebration from afar.

Saturday, June 6
6:50–7:20 p.m. ET
Virtual Gathering via Microsoft Teams

If you are interested in joining this virtual reunion moment, **please RSVP to Bekah Ford**, Associate Director of Alumni Engagement, at fordr@juniata.edu so she can send you the link and other details. We hope you'll join us — even if only for a few minutes!

BEKAH FORD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT HONORARY MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 1976

As you can see from Bekah's Bio (below), she has been the "glue" for Juniata and all Alumni classes! The Class of '76 Reunion Committees confirm that Bekah has been invaluable - advising our class, putting together activities, writing stories, and pulling this entire Alumni Weekend together! She was never too busy to answer questions, get pictures for the newsletter, help committee members on IT issues, set up agendas, advise on past reunions, and basically be a sounding board for anyone who needed help. We would be remiss if we didn't give a **big shout out to Bekah! THANK YOU** for everything you did to make this 50th Reunion a wonderful event we are sure everyone will enjoy! Your talent, calmness under fire, and willingness to do the impossible made this a great experience. After everyone reads her bio, they will understand why she is so successful!!! Hiking the entire Appalachian Trail!! Congratulations!

Bio - Bekah Ford '19

Associate Director of Alumni Engagement

Juniata was always part of my story. My parents met here (Mike Ford '82 and Valerie Schmoyer '90), and some of my earliest memories include attending Juniata football games. When I visited campus during my college search, Juniata quickly rose to the top of my list. I applied, deferred for a planned gap year, and set off on an adventure that would shape much of who I am today.

During that gap year, I lived and worked in Anchorage, Alaska, before thru-hiking the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine in 2015. I arrived at Juniata that Fall after completing all 2,189.2 miles of the AT and quickly found a strong sense of community in Huntingdon.

As a student, I embraced every opportunity Juniata offered—working as a tour guide, conducting microbial research, traveling internationally through study abroad and Concert Choir, working at Standing Stone Coffee Company, and building friendships that remain central to my life today.

After graduating in 2019, I spent the summer cycling cross-country from Washington State to Kansas with friends before beginning work in genomic testing. In 2022, I returned to Juniata to join the Alumni Engagement Office. Today, I have the privilege of connecting alumni across generations and helping create opportunities for meaningful connection back to Juniata and one another. I'm looking forward to meeting many of you this June as you return to campus!



DON'T STOP HERE!

Be sure to scroll all the way to the end of the newsletter for throwback photos from our 1976 commencement ceremony, memories from previous reunions, and more.

Still trying to decide?

Consider these reflections from previous Alumni Weekend Attendees:

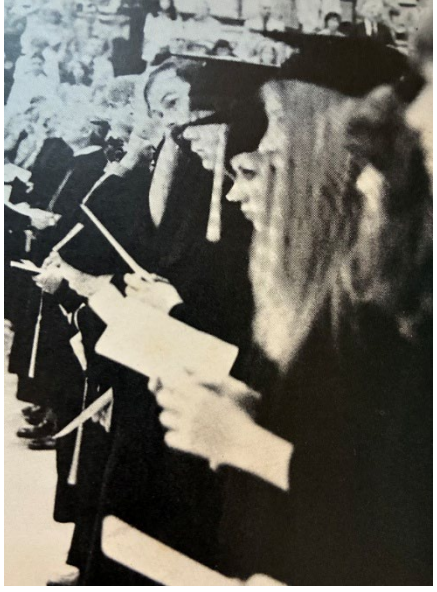
- *“Seeing classmates and spending time together again—it meant everything.”*
- *“An all-around lovely weekend—Juniata at its best.”*
- *“The campus looked beautiful, and I was proud—as always—to be a Juniata graduate.”*
- *“Our 50th reunion events were outstanding—especially the time spent together.”*
- *“The camaraderie and generosity on display throughout the weekend were incredible.”*
- *“It was remarkable—exactly what you hope a reunion experience will be.”*
- *“This weekend reminded me why coming back matters.”*



MORE PHOTOS!



... and More Photos!



... and Reunion Photos!!





FAQs for Reunion Weekend

Do I need to check in when I arrive on campus?

Yes! Stop by Registration in the lobby of Ellis Hall to pick up your name tag, pre-ordered meal tickets, and a printed schedule of events with updated times and locations. The online [schedule of events](#) page can also be referenced during Alumni Weekend for final event details. Registration hours are below:

- Thursday: 3–8:30 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
- Saturday: 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Sunday: 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Where can I find a map of Juniata?

You can find a digital map at this link: <https://www.juniata.edu/about/images/081324-Juniata-College-Campus-Map-With-Key.pdf>. Physical campus maps will be available at the registration desk in Ellis Hall.

Where should I park?

When arriving on campus, look for *Event Parking* signs to be directed to several campus lots. The lots near East Houses along College Avenue are often overlooked and are a short walk to the center of campus. Handicap parking is available in many locations, including along 17th Street, near Ellis Hall, and in the circle of von Liebig Center for Science.

What should I wear?

For the most part, recommended dress for the weekend is casual. Friday's All Class Dinner and Saturday's Reunion Gatherings tend to be dressier, often leaning toward "smart casual" in attire. Remember, Huntingdon's summers tend to be hot and humid!

What is the Class of 1976 Hospitality Lounge?

The Class of 1976 Hospitality Lounge, located in the Student Commons on the 2nd Floor of Ellis Hall, will serve as a central gathering place for classmates throughout the weekend to relax, reconnect, and enjoy displays of photos, memorabilia, and other memories from your time at Juniata. A memorial presentation

honoring departed classmates will also be available for viewing in the space throughout the weekend. If you have memorabilia or photos you would like to contribute, please contact Nancy (Nordberg) Glaeser at jonord117@gmail.com.

Are pets allowed on campus?

Pets are welcome on campus grounds if leashed, harnessed, or contained in a carrier at all times. Only clearly identified service animals are permitted inside campus buildings or at events where food and beverages are served.

If I have questions during Alumni Weekend, what should I do?

The Registration Desk in Ellis Hall is your go-to spot for any Alumni Weekend questions or concerns throughout the weekend. Additionally, Juniata staff are always happy to help.

Where can I find more info?

Check out the Alumni Weekend webpage at www.juniata.edu/alumniweekend and click on links to access the schedule, additional information, and more!

READY FOR OUR 50TH REUNION? - HERE'S A SCHEDULE OVERVIEW!

Thursday, June 4

- Golf Outing 10:30 a.m. | Huntingdon Country Club
- Pickleball Open Court 1 - 3 p.m. | Intramural Gym, Kennedy Sports and Recreation Center
- Special Campus Tours 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. | Meet at the Outdoor Classroom, Swigart Enrollment Center
- Class of 1976 Reunion... Welcome! 🍷 5 - 9 p.m. | Detwiler Plaza, Kennedy Sports & Recreation Center

Friday, June 5

- Class of 1976 Coffee & Breakfast Bar 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. | Location TBA
- Alumni College Session 2: *Juniata Then and Now* 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. | Location TBA
- Class of 1976 Faculty Lunch 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Location TBA
- Pickleball Open Court 1:15 - 2 p.m. | Intramural Gym, Kennedy Sports and Recreation Center
- Forum on the Future with President Troha 3 - 4 p.m. | Alumni Hall, Brumbaugh Academic Center
- All Class Reception 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. | Statton Learning Commons
- All Class Dinner 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Baker Refectory, Ellis Hall
- Class of 1976 50th Reunion President's Reception 8:30 - 11 p.m. | Living Room, Statton Learning Commons

Saturday, June 6

- President's Milestone Breakfast (*By invitation only*) 8:30 a.m. | Ballroom, Ellis Hall
- Alumni College Session 4: *Peace Chapel Forestry Tour* 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. | Meet in front of Ellis Hall
- Alumni Awards Assembly 11 a.m. - noon | Alumni Hall, Brumbaugh Academic Center
 - Your classmate, Cindy Valko, will be recognized for the Alumni Achievement Award
- Picnic on the Quad 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. | Tent, Campus Quadrangle
- Afternoon Options
 - Raystown Field Station Open House 12:30 - 3 p.m. | Raystown Field Station
 - Isett Heritage Museum Open House 12:30 - 3 p.m. | Isett Heritage Museum
 - The Juniata Scholarship Fund and Class Engagement Team Meeting 1:30 - 2:15 p.m. | Location TBA
 - Campus Tour hosted by Juniata Admission Ambassadors (JAA) 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. | Outdoor Classroom at Swigart Enrollment Center
 - Pickleball Open Court 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. | Intramural Gym, Kennedy Sports and Recreation Center
- Juniata's 150th: Living the Legacy 3 - 4:30 p.m. | Location TBA
- Class of 1976 Reunion Events 5:30 - 11 p.m. | Various Locations

- Class Photo 5:30 p.m. | Patio of Halbritter Center for the Performing Arts
- 50th Reunion Social Immediately following photo | Student Commons, 2nd Floor, Ellis Hall
- 50th Reunion Dinner 7 - 11 p.m. | Location TBA

Sunday, June 7

- Class of 1976 Farewell Breakfast 8 - 10 a.m. | Baker Refectory, Ellis Hall

See you Soon!!

Questions? Contact one of our committee chairs

Legacy Committee

Brad Sterl

bsterl@bradsterassociates.com

Social Committee

Guy Cooper gcoops3@gmail.com

Cheryl (Dettmar) Stites

cdettmarstites@gmail.com

Communications Committee

Cindy (Hill) Valko, geocin@aol.com



Celebrating 150 years of Inquiry, Integrity, and Service