

# Class of 1976 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Newsletter

Alumni Weekend June 4-7, 2026

December 2025 Edition



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**



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?

## **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion When? Next June: Thursday through Sunday, June 4-7, 2026**

**When to Register for Alumni Weekend** - Online registration for Alumni Weekend events will open in the spring. At that time you will be able to register and pay for the various events and meals throughout the weekend. The College wants to help us celebrate this milestone reunion, so many of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion events will be free to 1976 classmates. Please note that non-classmate guests will need to pay. **See news on the next page from our Social Committee!**

**Book Reservations Early** – Reserve a room using Juniata's 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>.

Limited on-campus residence hall accommodations are available during Alumni Weekend and can be reserved online in the spring.





## **Class of '76 Holiday Memories at JC!**

Winter is here! Great images come to mind when we remember holiday memories at JC! Who recalls the fun times traying down the snowy hill behind Brumbaugh Science Center and attending Madrigal Dinner? Christmas parties, “keggers”? Frozen commutes to class? Remember how beautiful the campus looked in the snow?

Time to relive those memories and create new ones at our 50th class reunion from June 4-7, 2026. It is shaping up to be an extraordinary gathering coinciding with JC’s 150th anniversary celebrations. This will not be your standard reunion. A variety of unique events are in the works and even a few surprises.

### **Here is a taste of the weekend’s events and festivities. We hope to see you all then!**

#### Thursday, June 4

- Morning
  - Golf at the Huntingdon Country Club
- Afternoon
  - Pickleball open court
- Evening
  - Class of 1976 Reunion Welcome, happy hour & cook-out, '70s music on fireplace patio!

#### Friday, June 5

- Morning
  - Class of 1976 Breakfast – a great time to share memories!
  - Emeriti Faculty Panel
- Afternoon
  - Emeriti Faculty Lunch
  - Pickleball open court
  - Forum on the Future with President Troha
- Evening
  - All Class Reception
  - All Class Dinner
  - Class of 1976 50th Reunion President’s Reception

#### Saturday, June 6

- Morning
  - Guided Peace Chapel Hike
  - Alumni Awards Assembly
- Afternoon
  - Picnic on the Quad
  - Raystown Field Station Open House
  - Campus Tour
- Evening
  - Class of 1976 50th Reunion Photo
  - Class of 1976 50th Reunion Social and Dinner

#### Sunday, June 7

- Morning
  - Class of 1976 Farewell Breakfast

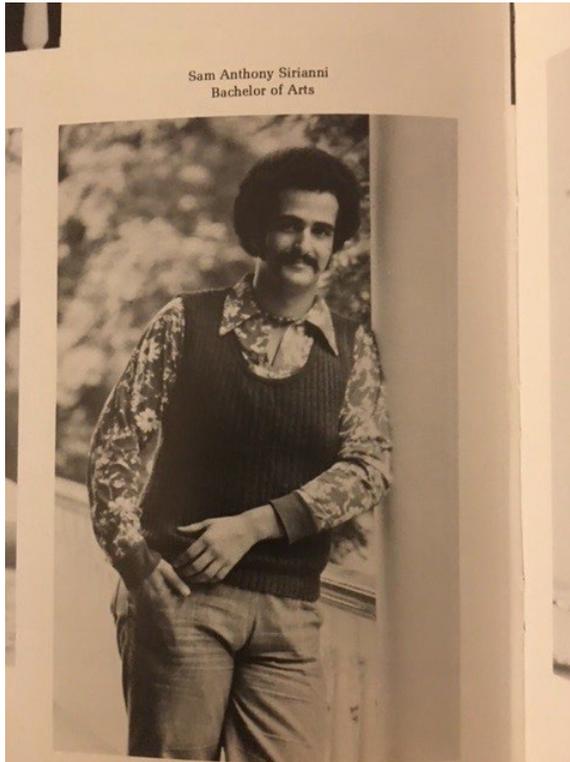
There are already quite a few class members planning to attend. Be sure to reserve the dates, and lodging. Registration will be opening in March. Looking forward to sharing this special time with you. In the meantime, Happy Holidays!

**Class of 1976 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Booklet** - we are preparing a 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. Be part of the celebration! Access the questionnaire here: <https://forms.gle/cihnQBxrn1LQmBEAA> or by using the QR code to the right.

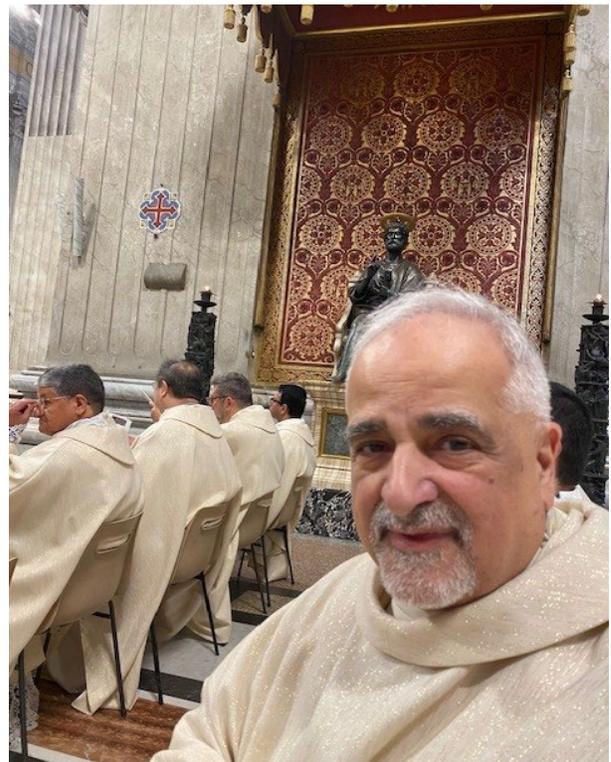


**Please submit your response to the questionnaire by January 31, 2026!**

Sam Sirianni offered to share his Bio for this December newsletter:



THEN



NOW

Bio – Sam A. Sirianni, 76

I came to Juniata College from Long Branch, New Jersey. I chose this school for a variety of reasons: 1) I fell in love with the campus, 2) it was a liberal arts school, and 3) I wanted to test a desire I had to become a Roman Catholic priest. Coming from my hometown, with a large Italian American community and strong Catholic background, I wanted to test my faith as truly mine and not imposed by community and family influences. My time at Juniata was everything I had hoped for. I loved the student community, the faculty, and the campus culture. Indeed, one may say I loved the campus culture too much because my academic discipline fell apart due to the many school activities I was involved in. I will always be grateful to my faculty advisors and the support of the administration that allowed me to graduate on time.

I loved the Program of Emphasis, and the trimester academic year. My POE allowed me to pull together my love of history, education, and drama, all of which would serve me well in my vocation. Through my involvement in student activities, I discovered the field of Student Personnel Services. This led to my applying

to Indiana University of Pennsylvania for a MA in Student Personnel. It was at IUP that my involvement in the Campus Catholic Ministry fostered my desire to see if I was being called to the priesthood.

I entered Darlington Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in September of 1980 and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Trenton in November of 1984. My 41 years as a priest has included parish ministry, the Diocesan Director of Worship, and pastoring several parishes. Today I serve as rector and pastor of the Co-Cathedral of Saint Robert Bellarmine, a 5,000-household community that serves both the local community and the wider Diocesan family.

Over the years I have returned to Juniata for my class reunions. I am grateful for being asked to assist in the '76 Reunion Committee on the Legacy Committee. Be assured of my prayers for all members of the Juniata Family. God Bless.

**Mini-Reunion this Fall!** Four of our classmates visited Huntingdon and Juniata this Fall to enjoy the football game as Juniata played Moravian. Remember these guys? Donald Leauber, Daniel Ereditario, Mark Smallwood, and Charles Zorger. What numbers are they?



## The mini reunion inspired Charlie to write this poem

*Four old friends beneath November skies,  
Laughter rising where the echoes lie.  
Dan, Don, Mark, and Charlie too,  
Back at Juniata — where time once flew.*

*The stands are filled, the band still plays,  
But their hearts drift back to golden days —  
'73, the Stagg Bowl's start,  
Where grit and glory played their part.*

*Mud on the cleats, frost in the air,  
Young men chasing dreams with flair.  
Now silver shines where gold once gleamed,  
But the fire inside has never dimmed.*

*They swap old tales — the hits, the cheers,  
The bonds that grew through sweat and years.  
A huddle of brothers, time can't sever,  
Once an Indian— an Indian forever.*

*The crowd roars loud, the lights burn bright,  
And for a moment, they're back that night —  
When Juniata's name was proudly known,  
And they helped build it, stone by stone.*

*So here's to friends and fields that bind,  
To autumn's glow and days behind.  
Dan, Don, Mark, and Charlie call —  
Back to the game that started it all.*

## 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  
Carla (Vickery) Frisch  
Nancy (Nordberg) Glaeser  
Steve Holsinger  
Elaine (Becker) Jones

Tony Kamnikar  
Dennis Katawczik  
Charles Kerekes  
Cathy (Crouse ) Kunkel  
Don Leauber  
Diane (Dawson) Lindstrom  
John "Dave" MacVeigh  
Don Martin  
Jack McCullough  
Janet Mercincavage  
Bob Orr  
Karen (Lotz) Orr  
Nancy Preston

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

**"Lost Classmates?"** We have no contact info for some of our '76 classmates. Are you in touch with any of these folks?

*Heidi Roche Breckheimer  
Gilbert R. Crouse  
Mark A. Mayhue*

*Patti Kehler Mayhue  
Kyle Messick-Morris  
Richard E. Mettler*

*Gail L. Pennabecker  
Jenny L. Sheetz  
Barbara J. Yaun*

## “Then and Now”

Back then, we called home from phone booths in the halls of our dorms or other pay phones around campus. No phones in our rooms, and of course, no cell phones! How did we manage?!



Today, students use cell phones to call home and anywhere else! No waiting necessary! Do they even know how to use a rotary phone?!

**Memory Question: What song brings back memories, and why?** Send answer to Nancy at [nancyep76@hotmail.com](mailto:nancyep76@hotmail.com); we'll add it to the next newsletter. Hope to hear from you!

### Other Questions? Feel free to contact our '76 Reunion Committees

The **Legacy Committee** - Brad Sterl, [bsterl@bradsterlassociates.com](mailto:bsterl@bradsterlassociates.com)

The **Social Committee** - Guy Cooper, [gcoops3@gmail.com](mailto:gcoops3@gmail.com) and Cheryl (Dettmar) Stites, [cdettmarstites@gmail.com](mailto:cdettmarstites@gmail.com)

The **Communications Committee** - Cindy (Hill) Valko, [geocin@aol.com](mailto:geocin@aol.com)



*Celebrating 150 years of Inquiry, Integrity, and Service*