



Pamela Parry

December 5, 1962 - February 4, 2025

Dr. Pamela Ann Parry, 62, of Jackson, MO, passed away on February 4, 2025. She was born on December 5, 1962, to Myron and Ann (Glover) Parry in Rolla, MO. She was a professor of Mass Media at Southeast Missouri State University and a member of Fruitland Community Church.

Survivors include Mike (Grace) Parry, Jackson, MO; Bob (Mindy) Parry, Bakersfield, CA; Sue Parry, West Lafayette, IN; and Jim Parry, Cape Girardeau, MO. Nieces and nephews include: Bethany (Travis) Bell and Tori (Clayton) Tinsley; Christy (Zach) Crandall; Katie, Andrew, and Bennett McRoberts; CJ (Lora) Parry and Chance Box. Grand nieces and nephews include: Lincoln and Alice Bell; Rylee, Ellie, and Baby Crandall; and Nate Tinsley. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Pam earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia, her Master's of Arts in Communication from American University, her Master's in Religious Education from Midwest Theological Seminary, and her PhD in Mass Communication Studies from the University of Southern Mississippi. She had a decade-long career as a reporter covering Baptist news in Missouri, Maryland, and Delaware, as well as the U.S. Congress, White House, and the Supreme Court during the Bush and Clinton administrations. Pam wrote for the McLaughlin group as well as the Baltimore Sun. Recently, she spent four years as the American Journalism History Journal editor. However, Pam is best known for her extensive research on President Eisenhower. She was most proud of her research and publication

concerning the contributions of women and minorities in communication and public relations.

Pam began her teaching career in 1997, following in her father's footsteps. She viewed her teaching as coaching students to love learning, research, and writing at multiple higher educational institutions. She started the "Ann Parry Scholarship of Engaged Citizenship" at SEMO in honor of her mother's love of children and education.

Pam was an avid sports fan who loved playing softball and basketball, golf, tennis, and pickleball later in life. She ministered to widows in her local church and served alongside her brother at the Fruitland Community Church. Pam had a fierce love of students, friends, and family. The greatest joy of her life was her nieces and nephews. Dr. Cool Aunt Pam left a legacy of hard work, tenacity, kindness, generosity, and laughter to all who knew her.

Visitation is Friday, February 14, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau, MO. Funeral service will follow at noon on February 14, 2025, with Rev. Mike Parry officiating.

The burial service will be at Rolla City Cemetery in Rolla, MO, on February 15, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be given to the "Ann Parry Scholarship of Engaged Citizenship" at SEMO: www.semo.edu/giving (Designation: other, in honor of Pam Parry).

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Rolla City Cemetery

510 Rolla St.
Rolla, MO 65401

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 14. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

FEB 14. 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall



“ I so enjoyed playing softball and basketball with Pam. She was a stalwart Bulldog behind the plate and did not shy away from a runner trying to squeak past her. Heaven is so much brighter with Pam there. I am lifting up the Parry siblings, her students and staff, and all those missing her. She is "home" now! Sending much love and continued prayers!



Jana K. Ward

Jana K. Ward - February 13, 2025 at 04:03 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Pamela Parry.



February 12, 2025 at 09:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Pamela Parry.

February 12, 2025 at 09:22 PM

LH

“ I first met Pam when she interviewed for a faculty position at Eastern Kentucky University in the spring of 2014 while I was chair of the Department of Communication. Hiring her was one of the best things the department did during my tenure as chair. Even though I retired before she joined the faculty that fall, we became good friends. After she moved to Missouri, we stayed in touch through phone calls and her visits to Kentucky.

Pam was a wonderful teacher with a talent for connecting with her students. She was a brilliant scholar and writer, and a leader in her field. When I talked with her shortly before she passed, she was excited about new projects and opportunities that lay ahead.

Pam was one of the nicest, most genuine, and most considerate people I've ever known. I'll miss her. My deepest condolences to Pam's family. She always spoke so lovingly of all of you.

Liz Hansen

Liz Hansen - February 12, 2025 at 06:31 PM

CA

“ Pam was a dear friend, an incredible hostess, a humble scholar, a good writer, and a wonderful follower of Jesus. She went out of her way to demonstrate love and hospitality to me and my entire family. She was generous in her love and knew how to make people feel at home and listened-to.

It was a joy to know her and she is deeply missed. I look forward to seeing her again in the resurrection even though we grieve her passing from this life. Praying for the whole Parry family in this season of loss. May the God of all comfort bring comfort to you all.

Love,

Caleb and Mackenzie Norman

Caleb - February 12, 2025 at 05:00 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Pamela Parry.



February 12, 2025 at 08:28 AM

SD

“ It isn't easy to find the right words to honor someone as remarkable as Pam. Even now, speaking about her in the past tense feels impossible—because she was such a constant presence in my life, in our work, and in our shared aspirations.

For the past five years, Pam and I have been in touch almost every week. Our conversations—whether through emails or calls—were a source of inspiration, encouragement, and deep professional and personal connection. She was not just a colleague but a friend. She played a pivotal role in my career, helping me secure a book contract and inviting me to serve as book review editor for a major academic journal. But more than that, she was my sounding board, my collaborator, and someone who made this profession feel less isolating and more meaningful.

Pam had a way of making people feel valued. She was generous with her time, her insights, and her support. She saw potential in others and worked to help them realize it. Her belief in the power of scholarship was matched only by her belief in the people behind it. She had so many plans, so many projects that will now remain unfinished. And yet, her impact—on me, on our field, on all who were lucky enough to know her—will continue.

I will miss her profoundly. I will miss her kindness, her friendship, and her unwavering belief that we were all capable of doing something meaningful.

Rest in peace, Pam. You were one of a kind, and I will carry your lessons, your laughter, and your encouragement with me always.

With deepest condolences to her family.

Sonya DiPalma

Sonya DiPalma - February 11, 2025 at 05:16 PM

EW

“ Pam was a truly good person. She always made everyone feel welcome and she will be missed. Deepest condolences to her family and friends.

Ellen Wood - February 11, 2025 at 04:22 PM

BF

“ Pam was such a student favorite in her time at Belmont. She also provided strong and kind leadership to her faculty colleagues. Our prayers are sent to the family and close friends. Bob and Judy Fisher

Bob Fisher - February 11, 2025 at 11:37 AM

TB

Pam had a habit of collecting people everywhere she went. She checked on them regularly and would look for ways to offer help. She believed in the power of encouraging others and never missed a chance to praise her students and colleagues. Her heart for others will be what I remember most.

Tamara Zellars Buck - February 12, 2025 at 07:25 AM

BG

“ Bonnie and Dale Gerecke purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Pamela Parry.



Bonnie and Dale Gerecke - February 11, 2025 at 09:12 AM

BG

“ Bonnie and Dale Gerecke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pamela Parry.

Bonnie and Dale Gerecke - February 11, 2025 at 09:12 AM

JW

“ I knew Pam through the American Journalism Historians Association, where she was always energetic, always enthusiastic, and always encouraging. She was quite a bright light among us. Sending condolences to all who are missing her.

Julie Hedgepeth Williams - February 10, 2025 at 09:29 PM

BG

“ Bob & Mindy - CA Bible Study Small Group purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Pamela Parry.



Bob & Mindy - CA Bible Study Small Group - February 10, 2025 at 06:05 PM

RG

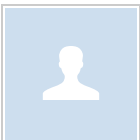
“ *My condolences to Pam's siblings whom she loved so very much.*

I got to know Pam at Belmont University. She was such an intelligent, humorous breath of fresh air and so easy to get to know. She was a precious friend, part of our Belmont teaching group, affectionately known as the Wild Women of Belmont, a great discussion partner when it came to politics, current affairs and history, and a deeply sensitive and loving friend to me when I lost my husband, my sisters and close friends. Only 10 days ago, we were making arrangements to meet up at the Eisenhower library this summer to edit Thor Smith's letters. . . . I hope the memories of her enthusiasm for teaching, her excitement about her Eisenhower research projects and her incredible love for her family and friends, will sustain everyone who loved her. The world has lost a brilliant light.

*Rose Gatens
North Fort Myers, Florida*



Rosanna Gatens - February 09, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Pamela Parry.*



February 08, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Pamela Parry.

February 08, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ I worked closely with Pam Parry in the Department of Communication Studies at Belmont University, and I witnessed the profound impact she had on her students and our institution. She brought to Belmont professional experience as a journalist and PR practitioner, and she started the Public Relations department from scratch. When she went back for her PhD, she used her dissertation research as an opportunity to produce award-winning scholarship on the Eisenhower administration. I marveled at her work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit, and extraordinary connection with students. She was always looking for a new adventure, and she enriched the varied academic communities of which she was a part. Pam often talked about her family and how happy she was to live close to them. I send my heartfelt condolences!

Mary Vaughn
Department of Communication Studies
Belmont University

Mary Vaughn - February 08, 2025 at 10:47 AM

LW

“ Dr Pam Parry was a great friend, advisor, and professor. She was a great influence in my studies as a Mass Communication Major with Media management and a minor in Sports Management. She gave lifelong expertise in the field of communications. I learned a lot from Dr. Parry. She will greatly missed. This definitely has been a tough week for me. But I know that I must push forward and make Dr. Parry proud. Sending my condolences to the family of Dr. Pam Parry.

*Leslie Anne Washington
Mass Communication with media management and Minor in Sports Management
Southeast Missouri State University
Cape Girardeau, Mo.*

Leslie Washington - February 07, 2025 at 10:31 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Pamela Parry.



February 07, 2025 at 08:00 PM

VM

“ I met Pam when I arrived at Belmont in 2003, and we clicked immediately. She was good at everything-- a beloved teacher, a great advisor, and an accomplished program builder. The students flocked to her office hours, and she always seemed to find time for each one. She had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh. At our many lunches together, we would tease each other about our academic disciplines, our politics, and our life at Belmont. Her affability concealed a formidable intellect: when she switched mid-career into research mode, she showcased enormous talent as a writer and thinker.

I don't exaggerate when I say that I was in awe of her. My wife and I used to laugh that she was also the world's greatest houseguest: Pam always left behind a pristine space and a made bed!

I pray that Pam has some inkling of how much she was loved and the legacy she left behind. The good ones seem to leave us far too soon, but I take some solace in the fact that God didn't want her to suffer and that this good and faithful servant needed to come home. Other than my father, I hope that Pam is one of the first faces that I see when I leave this world. We will have lots of catching up to do, Aunt Pam. Love, Vaughn and Whitney May

Vaughn May - February 07, 2025 at 07:37 PM

AT

“ I worked with Pam at Eastern Kentucky University. But we were much more than colleagues. She was a cherished friend. Like others have said, once you met Pam you had a friend for life. My heart breaks for her family. She talked about them all the time. I knew all about her brothers, sister, and cherished nieces and nephews. We shared the bond of being the fun aunts in our families. I saw all the beautiful photos of her family proudly displayed throughout her home. I'm so happy she was able to make her way back home. What a blessed way to spend her last years. Her legacy is too large to measure and too vast to articulate. She was truly loved and will be greatly missed. May our dear Pam rest in peace knowing her life was well lived. Amy Thieme

amy thieme - February 07, 2025 at 04:20 PM

LT

“ Dr. Parry was one of my professors during undergrad many years ago at Taylor University. She was curious, intelligent, and kind. She modeled enthusiasm for her interests. Dr. Parry visited me during a summer newspaper internship, and a year later we had dinner when I was on a reporting trip to Nashville, where she was teaching at the time. Now that I'm a doctoral student, we'd talked about connecting at a conference, but just weren't able to make it happen. I'm sad that we won't have that chance. I'm thankful for her life.

LaTonya Taylor - February 07, 2025 at 03:36 PM

TF

“ The Gerald Goodrich Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Pamela Parry.



The Gerald Goodrich Family - February 07, 2025 at 02:52 PM

CD

“ *Criminal Justice, SW, & Sociology Dept. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Pamela Parry.*



Criminal Justice, SW, & Sociology Dept. - February 07, 2025
at 01:25 PM



“ *So many memories of Pam! We knew each other since childhood. Trick or treating, running long distance track in 8th grade (badly!) and her trick of sucking pen caps in her throat!! Everyone loved her. I know she's with her Jesus now.*

Jami Warren - February 07, 2025 at 09:35 AM

DB

“ *Dorothy Rod Dave Judy Deb Rob Dan Birdie purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Pamela Parry.*



Dorothy Rod Dave Judy Deb Rob Dan Birdie - February 07, 2025 at 07:32 AM

LB

“ *1 file added to the album Memories of Pam Parry*



Lynnette McCurdy Bastida - February 07, 2025 at 06:38 AM

Jl

“ I always remember my cousin Pam as a warm and loving person. She lit up a room with her smile.

Janet Sue Iotti - February 07, 2025 at 06:04 AM

TF

“ The Grove family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Pamela Parry.



The Grove family - February 06, 2025 at 06:17 PM

TF

“ The Grove family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pamela Parry.

The Grove family - February 06, 2025 at 06:17 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pamela Parry.



February 06, 2025 at 05:54 PM