



# *Wheeling University*

**SELF-GUIDED TOUR**



## **Greetings, and welcome to Wheeling University!**

The entire Wheeling community welcomes you to our campus and hopes you enjoy visiting and exploring all our university has to offer. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is here to help you learn more about this wonderful community of learners.

Before starting your tour, we would like to share a little about the history of Wheeling University. Originally named Wheeling College, the University was founded to provide 'spiritual enlightenment for tomorrow's leaders and to seek God in all things.' Wheeling was established in 1954 as a partnership between the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). While its name may have changed, Wheeling University remains true to its roots providing students an education grounded in Ignatian principles. Wheeling University remains the only campus-based Catholic institution of higher education in West Virginia.

The thought of opening a Catholic college in West Virginia dates back to the late 1800s when the Most Rev. Patrick Donahue, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling, met Miss Sara Tracy on an ocean voyage to Rome. The Bishop became a counselor to Miss Tracy, who, upon her death in 1904, bequeathed the majority of her estate to the Diocese with a specific request that part of the gift be utilized to establish a college in West Virginia. Archbishop John J. Swint, in 1951, revived the idea and moved forward with the plan to launch a college and applied Miss Tracy's gift to fund the initial construction. The Archbishop requested that the Maryland Province begin a two-year feasibility study initiated by Rev. Clifford M. Lewis, S.J., the first Jesuit affiliated with the college. Archbishop Swint offered to provide the funding to purchase the land and fund the physical plant if the Jesuits would operate the college. The Jesuits approved the Archbishop's plan, and the Diocese purchased land owned by Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy for the college site. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 24, 1953, and construction of Swint, Donahue, and Whelan halls began the following spring. On

November 21, 1954, the cornerstone was laid for Donahue Hall, named in honor of Bishop Donahue.

Today, Wheeling University has grown from its humble beginning of three buildings and an original class of 90 students to an average undergraduate class of 250 students on a 65-acre campus adorned with academic and administrative buildings, athletic facilities, and residence halls. Academically, Wheeling offers more than 12 undergraduate majors 6 graduate degrees, and 10 certificate programs. In addition, athletic teams have grown to 19 NCAA DII men's and women's sports and a Division I Rugby team. Women's Varsity Rugby, was announced in the Summer of 2021, with an anticipated competition season beginning Fall 2022.

At Wheeling, learning is not limited to the classroom. Conducting research alongside faculty is a staple of the undergraduate and graduate experience. Wheeling also takes pride in offering students service-learning and internship opportunities. Wheeling values its mission to educate its students and return them to enrich their communities. Wheeling University firmly believes its graduates will enter the professional world prepared to use their God-given talents not solely for personal fulfillment but as men and women in service to others.

Now that you have a glimpse into Wheeling University's past and present let's begin your tour.

## **Swint Hall**



You are in Swint Hall, the hub of student activities at Wheeling University, and is the home of the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. This building is named in honor of Archbishop John J. Swint of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Down the hall from the Office of Admissions, you will find the Health Center, staffed by a full-time nurse. The second floor of Swint is home to the 24-Hour Lounge. You



will often find students hanging out on the couches, watching TV, or playing in the free game area. Located on the second floor is Troy Theatre, home to a variety of activities each year, including plays, school musicals, the Mass of the Holy Spirit and the Team trivia nights, alumni activities, dances, and speakers. Recent noteworthy performances include Man of LaMancha, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Cardinals

Got Talent, an annual talent competition modeled after American Idol and held every spring semester. Contestants sing before a live audience and a panel of judges and are eliminated in a series of themed rounds. You do not have to be a theatre major or minor to participate in any of the productions put on in Troy Theatre or to be involved in any performing arts at Wheeling University.

Before heading to the ground floor, exit the theatre, walk down the hallway where you will find the Student Government office. Just past the SGA offices are doors that lead to **Bishop Hodges Library**. As you enter the Library, you will find a kiosk of computers



available for student use. This spacious area offers students books, research resources, newspapers, magazines, and inter-library loans. In addition, the library staff are available to assist students in checking out laptops for use, or they can help with tracking down resources for a paper or project. In the back portion of

the library, you will find private and group study rooms and open areas to read, work on an assignment, or work with classmates on a project.

When you exit Bishop Hodges Library, turn right and look out the doors. There you will find the newly renovated **Bishop Hodges Library Plaza**. The plaza now has tables with umbrellas, and at night, strings of lights illuminate the area. Library Plaza has become a place for student activities, academic ceremonies, and dances. Let's turn around and go out the doors of this vestibule and leave Swint Hall. Before you make a right turn down the walkway, to your left is **Whelan Hall**, one of the original buildings and the former National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC). Okay, let's go down the walk and steps, turn right, and go back into Swint through the front doors. Just inside the doors to your right is **Das Rathskeller**, also known as the RATT, where live bands play, and student activities such as Team Trivia, Bingo, and pool can be enjoyed.

On this floor, you will find the **Cardinal's Nest** student union. The newly renovated student union features four TVs, charging stations, and lounging areas, in addition to dining seating. The Benedum, the university's dining hall, features an all-you-can-eat buffet-style dining hall complete with hot specialty entrees, vegetables, meats, specialty bars, pizza, hot grill, cold deli sandwiches, casseroles, stews, salad bar, breads, desserts, and beverages.



The student union is open Sunday through Thursday 6:00am – 10:00pm, Friday and Saturday 6:00 am - 1:00am. This is an excellent place for students to go when they need to do their homework in the late evenings and early mornings or a great spot to hang out and watch television.

The Benedum features themed meals held throughout the year and includes Wheeling's infamous late-night breakfast. Held during spring and fall semester finals week, University staff, faculty, and administrators serve breakfast to students while studying for finals. A beautiful outdoor deck is located off of the main dining area affording students the opportunity to study or dine al fresco as well as outdoor dining on the Library Plaza.

*We will exit the first floor of Swint, go down the steps, and enter the lower level of Swint on your right.*

Inside the door on your left is the **Public Safety Security** office. Wheeling's campus is covered by Wheeling University Public Safety in conjunction with the

Wheeling Police Department and the Ohio County Sheriff's Department. All residence halls require ID card access. Wheeling public safety officers patrol campus 24 hours a day – seven days a week. The mailroom, where each residential student has a mailbox, can be found in this area. All students receive a



mailbox which they keep for the entire time they are at Wheeling University.

There is also a small post office located around the corner from the student mailboxes to buy stamps and pick up packages. *Just a few steps down the hall on the right is **Starbucks**.* They serve fresh donuts and muffins every day from a local bakery, as well as smoothies, frappés, and seasonal flavored coffees. Starbucks accepts Flex Dollars from students' meal plans. Starbucks also offers our small on-campus convenience store where students can purchase everything from snack foods to small toiletry items and Cardinal gear. Starbucks is also a great place to hang out with friends or knock out some schoolwork. *As you leave Starbucks, walk straight, exit the building and make a left turn.*

## **McShain Plaza**

McShain Plaza is the area located between Swint Hall and the Chapel of Mary and Joseph. The charming Chapel Plaza is furnished with tables, chairs, and umbrellas, where students can be found for dining, studying, and socializing.

## **Chapel of Mary and Joseph**

Across from Swint Hall is the Chapel of Mary and Joseph, the spiritual center of Wheeling University, and is centrally located on the campus. Masses, said by the members of our Jesuit community, are open to all students, faculty, staff, and community members each weekday and on Sundays. The Mass schedule is posted on the Campus Ministry webpage. In addition, members of the Jesuit community perform baptisms and weddings for alumni throughout the year. The Chapel of Mary and Joseph is a popular location for weddings, and any alumni, students, faculty, staff, or their children can request to use the facility. Members of any religion are welcome to use the Chapel. Offices and meeting rooms can be found on the ground floor of the Chapel. With our newly renovated cross, the bell tower towers above McShain Plaza and symbolizes the University's spiritual dimension.

## **Center for Educational Technologies Building (CET)**

*As you leave the Chapel, turn right and walk through McShain Plaza. At the edge of the plaza, you will pass the Crescendo sculpture, a metal rendering of the state of West Virginia. Cross over Ignatian Way, the main road through campus, and up the sidewalk to enter the Center for Educational Technologies building. The CET is home to the Challenger Learning Center, President Ginny R. Favede's Office, and many administrative offices. A large section of the ground floor honors the Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy, an all-girls school that once bordered the campus. This area is home to the Edouard and Simone Ziegler Recital Hall, used for induction ceremonies, speakers and academic presentations,*





documentary series, Alumni in Scholar Lectures and other special events. The Sister's Gallery Conservatory is across the lobby and houses many Mount de Chantal photos, artifacts, and pieces of the Academy's history – including two chandeliers. On the second floor of the CET, students will find the Academic Affairs, Information Technology, and Business offices. The Erickson Alumni Center is often used for alumni events, Board of Trustee and Alumni Council meetings, academic presentations, community events, administrative meetings, and socials. The top floor of the building houses the Challenger Learning Center offices/classrooms/simulator and the offices for Human Resources, Advancement, and the President.

### **Philip and Evelyn Kirby Hall**

When you exit CET, go down the sidewalk, turn left and proceed down the steps into Kirby Hall, named in honor of former Board Chair and benefactors Philip Kirby and his wife, Evelyn. Built in 1999, Kirby Hall is the newest on-campus and provides upper-class male and female students, by floor, living accommodations. Each floor has a common, community area and the second-floor common area affords residents weight and cardio equipment. An outside courtyard sits between Kirby and Sara Tracy that residents can enjoy studying, relaxing, and gathering with friends. The first-

floor recreation area offers a large open space for residents to use for game nights, group study, or meetings. The Student Success Center (SSC) is located on the lower level of Kirby Hall, which offers students peer tutoring, career



services info, success sessions, and the Early Alert Retention Program. In addition, the SSC is where students can find academic assistance, general guidance, computers to use, study areas – public and private. The SSC is also home to the Study Abroad Program, First-Year Seminar, work-study job placement, career services assistance, service-learning opportunities, general and team study tables, experiential learning, and peer tutoring.



## **Sara Tracy Hall**

Named in honor of benefactor Sara Tracy, this is the original female residence hall. It is adjacent to Kirby Hall (sitting directly behind Kirby) and continues to house students. There are study lounges on each of the floors for the residents to use.



*As you leave Kirby Hall and the SSC, go to the left and walk down the sidewalk towards the athletic field.*

## **Bishop Schmitt Field**

Located between Kirby Hall and the McDonough Center, Bishop Schmitt Field is home to the Cardinals soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, track, and field teams. A track surrounds the turf field, and the venue offers seating for more than 2,000 fans in the home and visitor's grandstands.

*Continue walking past the field and down the sidewalk toward our athletic complex.*

## **Alma Grace McDonough Center**

The Alma Grace McDonough Center, named after its donor is the main athletic complex of the campus. This complex is named in recognition of Alma Grace McDonough, whose gift funded the facility's construction. The facility is home to the Cardinal athletic teams, coaches, and athletic trainers. The Center features a performance gym with a second-floor indoor track, an auxiliary gym, swimming pool/natatorium, locker rooms, athletic training facilities, offices for athletic administrators and



coaches. Additionally, the McDonough Center is home to the Exercise Science program labs and classrooms, a lab for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, and weight and fitness rooms. All students have access to the facility – athlete and non-athlete alike.

*The Cardinals baseball and softball teams call the J.B. Chambers Complex, located off-campus along I-470, their home field.*

*Fast Facts – In 1994, the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt was formerly displayed in the McDonough Center, and in 2000, former Attorney General Janet Reno gave the Commencement Address inside the Performance Gym. In addition, the Aux gym welcomed many celebrities over the years. In 1976, Ronald Reagan, the future president of the United States, spoke inside the gym. In addition, the Letterman, Chubby Checker, and Jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie all held concerts inside the Aux gym.*

*As you leave the main doors of McDonough, turn left and proceed up the walkway towards two of our residence halls, McHugh Hall and Champion House*

### **McHugh Hall and Champion House**

**McHugh Hall**, named for Fr. Lawrence McHugh, S.J., first president of Wheeling, and located across Ignatian Way from McDonough, serves as the main residence hall for first-year male students. It features study lounges on each floor and a multi-purpose lounge on the lower level.



**Champion House**, connected to McHugh Hall, is a three-story residence hall and houses male students. Study lounges can be found on each floor inside this hall as well.

**Thomas More Hall** is located behind Campion House and is currently unoccupied. However, this residence hall is scheduled for renovations beginning in 2023.

*When you exit the front doors of McHugh, turn left and walk up the hill to our largest residence facility on campus.*

### **Ignatius Hall**

Located on the hill overlooking the campus, Ignatius Hall is a seven-floor residence hall with a 276-bed capacity and provides living accommodations for upper-class male and female students by floor. Each floor features a lounge/study area. In addition, the ground and first floors of Ignatius are home to the classrooms, labs, and faculty offices for the University's Doctor of Physical Therapy program.



*All that remains on the tour are our two academic buildings.*

### **Acker Science Center – "Acker"**

Acker is located just a short stroll to the left of Ignatius Hall. This facility has become the University's main instructional/academic building on campus, housing computers, biology and chemistry labs, classrooms, faculty offices, and administrative offices for the Registrar, Residence Life, and Student Services. In addition, a large auditorium, used for classes, presentations, and meetings, can be found on the ground floor. The Acker Science Center, the newest building on the campus, was dedicated in 2002 and named in honor of the fifth president of the University, Rev. Thomas S. Acker, S.J.

'The Bridge,' located on the first floor of Acker Science Center, connects Acker to Donahue Hall. On the bridge, students can find the Campus Ministry Office and the Appalachian Institute. Each year, the Campus Ministry Office spearheads

various activities for students and athletic teams, such as retreats (both on campus and at Lantz Farm Retreat Center), Bible study, and small prayer communities. The Appalachian Institute hosts various service activities for Wheeling students and colleges and organizations from around the country. The Bridge, furnished with tables and couches, offers students a place to study, meet friends and relax.

***FAST FACT:*** *One religion or philosophy course is required for all students, and service-learning is embedded in our core curriculum.*

As you walk across the bridge, you cross onto the third floor of Donahue Hall.



### **Donahue Hall**

Donahue is one of the original three buildings constructed on the campus. This facility is home to various classrooms, the Nursing Department Simulation Lab, the University Counseling Center, Disability Services, study spaces, and the Psychology Lab.

*As you exit the front doors of Donahue, you will see a plaza and open lawn.*

### **Donahue Lawn**

The expansive lawn area located outside the main entrance to Donahue Hall is used often by students and the campus community. The Donahue Plaza area features patio tables with umbrellas and relaxing Adirondack chairs. Donahue Lawn and Plaza is one of our favorite spots on campus. On a sunny day, students enjoy studying, eating a to-go box from Starbucks, or just hanging out on the plaza. Students pass by the plaza on their way to class, and it's a great place to sit and chat with friends on a nice





day. Students can often be seen watching the Cardinals from the Adirondack chairs that line the Donahue Lawn area during sporting events. In addition, students often use the chairs to study with classmates or just relax. Many campus activities, such as classes, outdoor movies, Last Blast, team trivia and game nights, picnics, and kickball tournaments, occur on the lawn. Students also find this area to be the perfect place to study and relax with friends. Faculty also use Donahue Lawn for classes and meetings. The Donahue Lawn is a favorite student spot on campus!

*That is the end of your self-guided walk around Wheeling University. All that remains of your tour is an introduction to our Admissions team.*

*While its name may have changed, Wheeling University remains true to its roots of providing its students with educational opportunities grounded in the Ignatian principles. Wheeling remains the only campus-based Catholic institution of higher education in West Virginia.*

*According to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU), Wheeling University is one of only ten diocesan-sponsored universities in the U.S. In addition to Wheeling, those other institutions include; Carroll College, Gannon University, Loras College, Seton Hill University, St. Ambrose University, St. Thomas University, Thomas More University, University of Dallas, and the University of St. Thomas (M.N.).*

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