



# 50 Year Club Newsletter

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## Class of 1962 Welcome Back for Your 50th

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Welcome back for this very special time. The planning committee, composed of Kathy (Oliver) Burgoyne, Rev. John DiBacco, Jim Fornia, Mark Geary, J.L. Lyons, Andrea (DiPiero) Santer and Tom Santer, has worked hard to encourage all of you to be here and have planned a memorable weekend.

Friday evening events begin at 5 PM with the conferring of 50 Year Club diplomas and an address by WJU President Rick Beyer in Troy Theater. This will be followed by a chance to socialize at the President's reception and then enjoy dinner that will be served downstairs in the Benedum Room. After dinner get ready to have some fun with entertainment planned by Kevin Kerrane with tributes and stories shared by classmates about Fr. McGroarty, Fr. Gannon, Dr. Orr and others. Kevin tells me that the evening will be full of "**Memories of Our Times at Wheeling College**". There will also be stories about members of the class of 62 recalling some of the *historic* mo-

ments of their class. There may even be time for the 4 younger brothers to describe how their older brothers outshined them at WC. See page 12 for details. Pictured on the right starting at the top Fr. McGroarty, Fr. Gannon, Dr. Orr



Kevin Kerrane

### 50 Year Club

The 50 Year Club was created in 2010 by the class of 1960. Al Reed '60 originated the idea and provided the initial leadership to make the club come to life. Al discovered that several colleges and universities have 50



This is a picture from 2010 reunion. Phyllis Faber Kelley and Al Reed class of 60 provide an overview of the 50 Year Club.

year clubs and convinced the other members of the reunion planning committee to create the club. The club is an adjunct organization of the Alumni Council. **See the 50 Year Club page 14 for a more extensive description of the club, it's proposed activities, by-laws**

**and officers.** The class of 62 will join the classes of 59, 60, 61 as members of the 50 Year Club. **Honorary memberships this year will be given to Fr. James O'Brien (see page 2) and Coach Ed Coyne (first head basketball coach)**



### Second (Annual) 50 Year Club Lecture Saturday Discovery Center 9:30 AM



The lecture this year will be a panel discussion **moderated** by 50 Year Club president Ed Shahady. Panelists will be **Rev. James O'Brien** Professor emeritus and the longest serving Jesuit in WJU history, **Monica Kennison PhD** Professor and Chair Nursing Department WJU, **Kevin Kerrane PhD**, Professor of English at University of Delaware and member of the class of 62. The panel will discuss and debate "Is a Liberal Arts Education Really Needed For Every Student?" The style will be similar to the presidential debates with questions from the moderator as well as the audience. **Disagreement is encouraged.** During the discussion the audience can text questions to Ed at **850-443-1230**. Get ready for an exciting and spirited discussion.



## Message to from President Beyer to Class of 62

Welcome home members of the Class of 1962 and happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

My wife, Cindy, and I are so happy that you have returned to campus for the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of your graduation class from WJU. We anticipate you'll have an enjoyable weekend filled with opportunities for fond reminiscences of our college's early years. We hope you will find some time this weekend to share some of your memories with us – we look forward to hearing about what Wheeling Jesuit was like in those early years and celebrating your accomplishments.



Alumni Weekend 2012 is a chance for you to reconnect with your classmates and meet with those of us who now work at your beloved institution. While the physical appearance of the campus and the educational programs have grown since you were students, the care shown to our students has not changed. Our commitment to help each student integrate critical thinking skills with a strong desire to serve society remains the same. In particular, this weekend, I look forward to presenting you with a golden diploma in conjunction with your induction into the 50 Year Club.

This year we mark another milestone – Fr. Jim O'Brien's 50<sup>th</sup> year at Wheeling Jesuit. We will recognize Fr. O'Brien, along with our alumni award winners, during the Saturday evening President's Dinner. I encourage you to attend this special celebration. This is an exciting time for you and for Wheeling Jesuit University. We hope you enjoy your 50<sup>th</sup> reunion and your time back home at Wheeling Jesuit.

**Best wishes and happy anniversary!**

**Richard A. Beyer, Wheeling Jesuit University President**



## Fr. James O'Brien Celebrates his 50th

(All information courtesy of Kelly Klubert ) Ordained a priest in 1960 he arrived at WC in August of 1962. Many changes have occurred since the Philadelphia native arrived. He's seen changes in the physical make up, an increase in student population and growth of programs. "I never thought I'd be here this long but it seemed that there was always something to finish." In the late 1960's the Provincial offered him the chance to work elsewhere, "but I felt that I hadn't been doing this teaching thing all that long and I said I'd like to finish it."

And such was the answer each time a school or individual came knocking on O'Brien's door – there was always something that compelled him to remain in Wheeling.

He was once asked how many alumni he's married over the years or baptisms he'd performed – he just smiled and said "quite a few!"

**The longest serving Jesuit at Wheeling Jesuit, O'Brien admits he would have been a much different person had he been at a larger university. He believes he would have never experienced such a close-knit community with a more personal touch. His own personal touch can be seen through the life he leads day in and day out. In front of a classroom lecturing about Plato or Aristotle, his passion for teaching impacts the students there to learn. When leading a group of young men and women on retreat, O'Brien's dedication to his faith pours out. People who serve with him on committees call upon his leadership and guidance. And, when times are tough, his broad shoulders can be found to lean on.** Yes, there have been changes on the campus – buildings, staff, students and technology. However, most would say Fr. O'Brien is the one constant at the University – the calming voice for students, the caring man there to offer a helping hand and **the beloved priest who continues to make an impact on the lives of those around him.**





## WJU Started in the Basement of An Old Church

### Lou Stahl '62

My earliest memories of then Wheeling College go back to around 1954, when I was about 13, and Fr. Clifford Lewis and Brother "Mike" arrived at the old St. Michael's Rectory and Church on Edgington Lane, in the neighborhood where I grew up. Both buildings had sat empty for several years after a new church and rectory were built on National Road. A large sign was installed announcing that the old church and rectory were to be the temporary home of a new college that was coming to Wheeling and would be run by the Jesuits. At some point, several more Jesuits arrived, including Fr. Lawrence McHugh, who became the first president of Wheeling College.

### The kids in the neighborhood quickly got to know Fr. Lewis and Brother

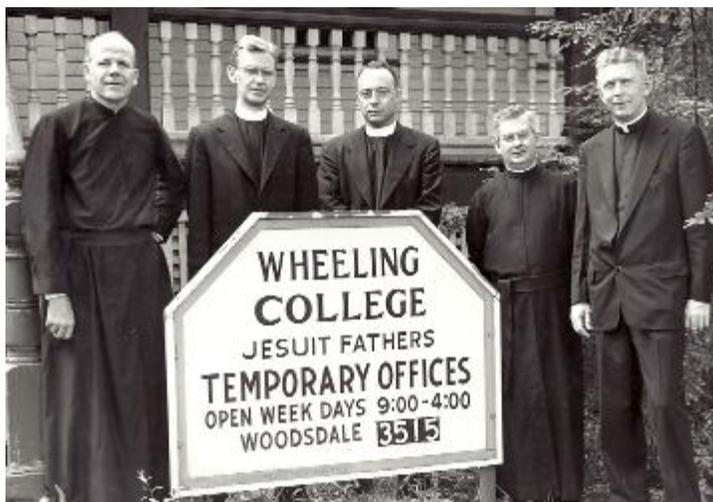
Mike, both of whom were very friendly and talked to us about their plans to start a new school "over by the Mount", which was then a prestigious girl's school. Naturally skeptical, like most teenagers, we walked over to the old farm by the Mount to see whether anything was actually happening. There was very little new construction in Wheeling in those days, and we were amazed to find heavy equipment scrapping away the ground to prepare for the erection of the first buildings. John Vogel, who also became a member of the class of 1962, and I watched the first steel girders frame the three or four initial structures, watched the bricks being cemented in place, and **were in awe that what Fr. Lewis told us appeared to be true** – it looked like they really were building a new school. Nothing like that had ever happened in Wheeling in our memory. We could not imagine that the school would have a profound impact on our lives.

The dark and dingy **basement of the church was the first home of what would become the college's library**. The dirt floor was quickly filled with large sheets of plywood on wooden "horses" and soon thousands of old books began arriving from places unknown. The books were placed side by side, binder side up, on the wooden work areas.

Eventually, the upstairs floor - from which the pews had been removed - was also covered with sheets of wood on horses, and more books followed. I had never seen so many books in my life. My friends and I were curious about what was going on, and we periodically visited the basement and upstairs church to inspect the growing number of books; we were disappointed to find that most of them were old, fragile and dusty, and dealt with obscure subjects of absolutely no interest to us.

Nevertheless, the whole process of collecting and organizing the books was mildly interesting to our young minds and, from time to time, **we returned to talk to the ladies who were laboring away in musty obscurity**. One of them was Josephine Savaro, the school's first librarian, who worked on the project every weekday for what seemed like forever, and she

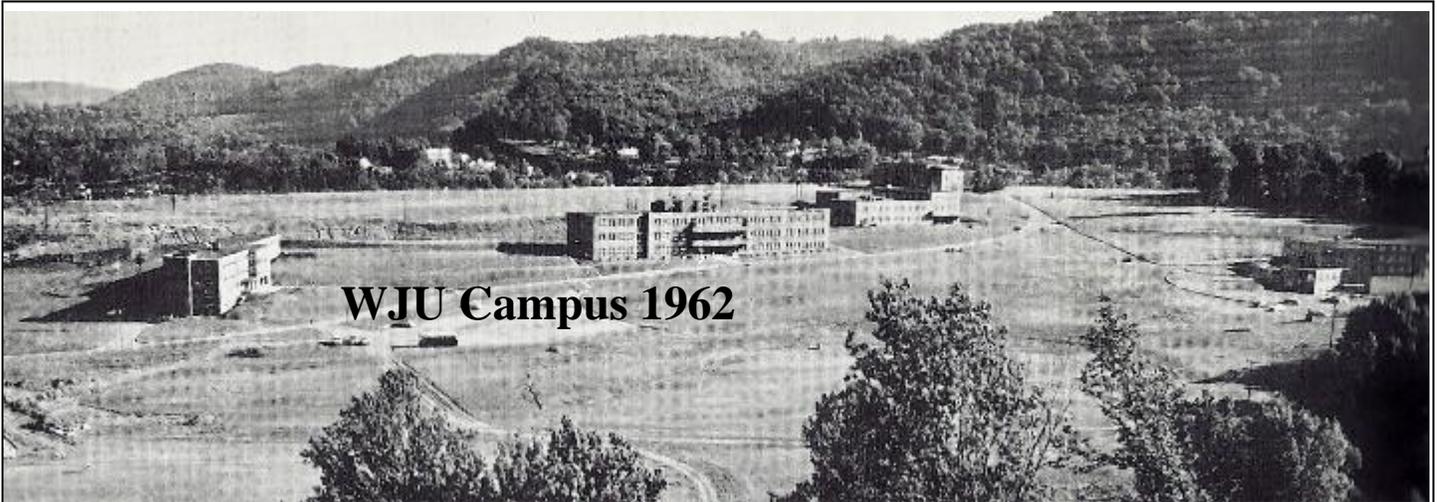
patiently explained to us how she was cataloging all of the books for the new school library. My recollection is that Eileen Carpino, who became the school's assistant librarian and, eventually, the librarian, was also there, diligently helping to organize the approximately 10,000 books that became the nucleus of the



Brother Michalowicz, Frs. Powers, Lewis, Drane and McHugh

Wheeling College library.

As we got a little older, **Fr. Lewis recruited several of us to help him with one of his projects**. He persuaded us that we should work without pay – and that our reward would come later. In those days, we accepted without question whatever a priest told us and did not dare to refuse a priest's request for help. After the initial buildings were constructed, Fr. Lewis decided that the grounds needed some landscaping, and he told us that he had gotten permission from a property owner in the Oglebay Park area to go up and take some small trees for the school. Fr. Lewis borrowed a truck and some picks and shovels, and several of us drove out with him to dig up "a few little trees" that he wanted to transplant along the crest of the hill between the new buildings and the houses along **(continued on next page)**



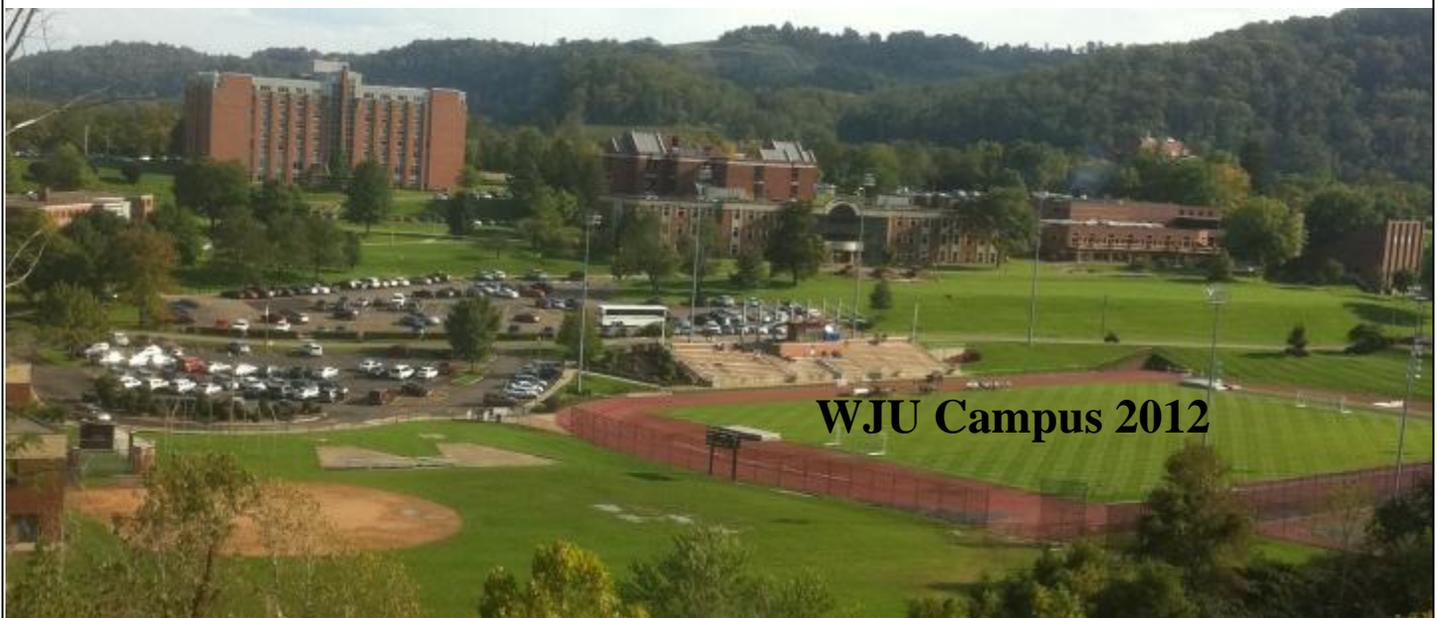
## WJU Campus 1962

(continued from page 3 by Lou Stahl) Washington Avenue. As I recall, it was a cold day, and we needed coats and gloves to work. The trees turned out to be pine trees around 2 to 3 feet high, and the digging and excavation - while keeping the root ball intact - was not easy. No matter how many trees we managed to dig up and get into the back of the truck, Fr. Lewis kept finding one more that he liked. Eventually, when we were all exhausted, he finally agreed that it was time to go home. On the drive back to the campus, he announced that we had to plant all of the trees before it got dark, which we did long after the sun had set. **I don't know whether any of Fr. Lewis's pine trees still survive, but much of his work does.**

In those early days, we were told that the Jesuits had been persuaded by Bishop Swint to come to Wheeling to provide an education to the kids in West Virginia and the tri-state area who did not have the money to attend one of the established Catholic institutions on

the east coast. As I recall, the tuition the first year was only \$250.00 a semester, but I did not have that, so like many others, **I got through Wheeling College on student loans. It was the best investment I have ever made.**

More importantly, the little school that began in the basement of an old church continues to provide hundreds of young men and women with an opportunity to obtain an education that might not otherwise be available to them. Wheeling Jesuit does not just teach math and science, as important as those subjects are – it teaches sound moral values, which are critical to the survival of a free society. All of us who benefited from the work of those who had the foresight to create and nurture Wheeling Jesuit through the early days now have an **obligation to help assure that the school can continue to serve those for whom it was created, and that future generations have the same life changing opportunity that we were given.**



## WJU Campus 2012

## More Memories of the Early Years-before the buildings were there

When I was a child living on America Ave, three or so blocks from the footbridge over Wheeing Creek to what is now the campus of Wheeing Jesuit University, the land where the school is located was a working farm. That small farm's products went to sustain the Sisters at Mount de Chantal and their very fine academy for girls. The lower ground of the farm was plowed with horses. As the plows turned up the soil, lots of artifacts from an Indian tribe could be found. **I was the proud keeper of a collection of arrow heads, chopping and milling tools. After the Jesuits arrived, Father Clifford Lewis examined my collection and validated my findings.** The Indian village was situated where the field house and athletic fields now exist and where the creek makes a left turn on its journey to the Ohio River.

**I was still in grade school at St. Michael's, along with Lou Stahl, Kathy Oliver and Tim Philipps,** when I first met Father Lewis and Brother Michael, the pathfinders sent by the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus to lay the groundwork for Wheeling College. The property on which the college is situated was given by Bishop Swint to the Jesuits so that a Catholic institution of higher learning could be established in predominantly Protestant West Virginia.

Father Lewis was later joined by Fathers Troy and McHugh. My father, Richard Vogel and my mother, Eleanor Byrne Vogel, enthusiastically welcomed the Jesuits, as did the greater Wheeling community. My parents were helpful in introducing them to the community. My father was the Vice President of a small local bank and was quite active as the Chairman of the United Way campaign, then called the Community Chest. Through my father's efforts and those of others, the early Jesuit arrivals were speakers at various forums, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Elks and Kiwanis.

My dad was an avid golfer and invited Fathers Lewis, Troy and McHugh to join him for rounds of golf at Wheeling Country Club. There they met business owners and professionals who could be beneficial in helping the Jesuits and their new college become established in the community. **Father Lewis was an excellent golfer, as Larry Mirgon and Mike McGovern can attest** from a few lessons he gave us at the



**By John Vogle 62**

the country club's practice range. Fathers Troy and McHugh had what might be called respectable games and certainly enjoyed the camaraderie associated with a golf game. I was in awe of these priests, especially Father Lewis, a widower whose mother-in-law lived in the Welty Home at the intersection of Washington Avenue and National Highway (Route 40). Being in their company was a treat. Such sparkling conversationalists!

My mother, Irene (Bernie) Byrne Young's aunt, was a founding member of the Wheeling College Guild.

**Many older alumni remember Father Kernan,** a professor of English. He was a great instructor, really quite brilliant, and the possessor of a sizeable ego. One day, my Dad took him to visit Washington Farms, where our family kept horses. Fr. Kernan told my father, an experienced horseman, that he too was a very skilled horseman going way back to his youth. Fr. Kernan decided that he wanted to ride Captain Bill, my father's favorite horse, who was both handsome and spirited, with the emphasis on "spirited". Despite being forewarned about how difficult the horse was to handle, Father Kernan mounted Captain Bill and proceeded to ride him up a slope away from the barn. A few of us stayed near the barn. All went well until the horse reached the top of the hill, when he turned suddenly and ran back to the barn at full speed, with Fr. Kernan hanging on for dear life. The return ride back to the barn did not result in any injury, but by the time the horse and rider arrived at the unscheduled end to their journey, **Father Kernan had a look of sheer terror on his face,** and was clinging to the horse's neck and mane as if his life depended upon it. Fortunately, he managed to stay in the saddle, thanks be to God, and he informed my Father that he needed to do a better job in training the animal. A gentle mare was then found for him to ride.

Little did I know back then the effect the college, faculty, staff and students would have on my life. **I do know that the education, in and out of the classroom, certainly stood me in good stead all of my personal and professional life, for which I am very grateful.**

## Memories from the Class of 62 by Denny Weitzel

When Ed Shahady called me recently and asked that I write something about my memories of Wheeling College, I thought it would be difficult to remember anything from fifty years ago and then in an instant I was overwhelmed with memories—many not suitable for print! My first memory, like many of my classmates I am sure, was arriving on campus and being greeted by **Father Gannon who knew everything about me—he was the 1958 version of Facebook** without computer technology! Needless to say over the next 4 years he was an integral part of my development, as he was everyone's, and I was fortunate enough to spend a summer in Europe with him and others from WC.

Most of my academic experiences have faded! I do remember that I got an "F" at the first quarter in freshman Theology from Father Neville. Having gone to public schools all my life, my background was limited to the parish "Sunday school" and I knew nothing about the details of the Four Gospels. Trying to grasp things like the Immaculate Conception really threw me—never could figure it out and still can't today. I hung in there though and managed to get a "C" for the first semester and the lessons learned along with Father Kerns' course on Marriage have served me well. Probably why I waited till I was 60 to tie the knot!

Being a Business Administration major, I learned about the merits of capitalism, free markets and lassie fare, concepts that have survived and obviously served Wall Street well in recent years! But my most vivid memories are of the face of the Bus. Ad. Department, the incomparable Doctor Bruno J. Hartung! Who could ever forget that voice and his way with names? **I can still hear him calling on Frank Plavin and Larry Mirgon..."And now Mr. Play-VAN and Mr. Meer-GONE** will explain the inverse relationship of interest rates to the price of bonds..."

And then there was Spanish. The puzzled look on Dr. Goicz's face when he would ask Pete Rohr (in Spanish) why he was late to class (which he was frequently). **Regardless of what the weather was like, Pete would respond "El weatherOH es HorribLOH". Gears and I would be cracking up. I think Goicz spent his career trying to translate this.** Finally there were all those philosophy courses with Father Gannon and Father Coll—metaphysics, logic, ethics, and my favorite—EPISTIMOLOGY!

They are all rather vague now; except for those catchy Latin phrases like "Cogito ergo sum". Heady stuff and something you could always use when your existence was questioned in one of the many philosophical discussions at McFaddens. Seldom had much effect, but **John and Ella were always in awe at the intellectuals from WC.**



**But of all my memories, the fondest are of the people at Wheeling College**, especially my roommates, my classmates and the experiences we shared. Where else could I have spent my freshman year rooming with five other guys in a 10 by 15 room with a communal shower three floors down in a dungeon. There was Joe Ziskey, John Fleming, "Gears", Pete Rohr and Larry Mirgon (who tolerated me for 4 years as a roommate). All were unique characters. Fleming would actually wake up and listen to us talk in our sleep. Next morning he could tell Gears verbatim what you said—what a skill. And then there was Pete Rohr. **He was the only man who could wear a blue oxford, button down collar shirt for 30 days without sending it to the laundry. He could take it off, pull down the tie without unknitting it, place it over the back of a chair without ever wrinkling it, put it back on in the morning with his blue blazer, the same khakis, desert boots,** and go off to class. Unfortunately, Pete departed after freshman year, but his legend survives. There are, of course, many others. Shades, Sanch, Bas and me in Atlantic City, Bill Barker who once hit a softball further than Babe Ruth, Kevin who could write a 10 page short story in 10 minutes, JL the consummate MC, McGivern with the only car on campus, Plavin and his weird laugh, Mitch and Bernie Byrne in Europe, Kathy O and all the great women of our class. There were all the Jesuits and who could ever forget Father McGroarty standing outside the Swint Hall cafeteria observing his flock. The man was there every night. I returned to

Wheeling several years ago there **he was in the same spot!** There are memories of everyone, and I am sure we will share quite a few at our 50th.



## More memories from the Class of 62



By Jim Wells

Wheeling College changed my life. Trite but true? Perhaps and probably also true for most if not all of the rest of you. But why do I say this in my case? I came from an environment where the expectation for most young men after high school was either some form of manual labor or joining the army. There were only a handful of students at my high school who aspired to go to college. Thanks to one particular high school teacher who encouraged her students to set high goals, I was one of them. **I remember seeing the first announcement in the newspaper about the Jesuits building a college in Wheeling.** That must have been around 1954. From that time on, I wanted to attend Wheeling College. (I have to admit that, at the time, this was driven in no small part by the fact that our parish priest continually told us that we would go to hell if we didn't attend catholic schools!) This was a great challenge for my mother (my father died when I was thirteen) since our finances were meager to say the least. She wanted me to attend WVU but I resisted mightily. After much haranguing she finally agreed to let me start on the condition that I live at home to keep expenses low. Which I did for the first three semesters, commuting from Moundsville. This severely impacted my ability to participate in the non-academic aspects of the college.



In late 1960, my mother informed me that we were moving to Florida. All of the other family members on my mother's side had abandoned West Virginia earlier. Needless to say, this did not sit well with me and my plans to attend Wheeling College. Without thinking too long, I decided that I would stay in West Virginia and not move with them. So, in the second semester of sophomore year I became a resident student and began to be more involved with college life. I never thought about it in this way before, but I guess I adopted Wheeling College as a surrogate home and family. In retrospect, this was a momentous decision for me but one I never regretted for an instant.

I'm sure that WJU still offers an excellent education. But nothing can hold a candle to the opportunities we had to be educated by, and interact with, some of the best Jesuit educators there were at the time. I'll never forget it.

Some memories, in no particular order: **Fr. Joseph Kerns**, the most pious person I will ever know.

**Fr. Joseph Kennedy**, who taught history in a way I didn't think possible. **Fr. Ed Gannon**, who broadened our perspectives in so many ways (remember going to see La Dolce Vita with him?)

**Ms. Elizabeth Bernhardt** who taught me enough German to be able to pass the PhD language requirements. "Herr Wells, schlessen zie die tur!"

**Fr. Joseph Duke**, who joked that he graded his chemistry exams by standing at the top of stairs and tossing them down – his version of grading on the curve! **Prof. Paul Orr**, who joked that he graded our papers while letting his children crawl all over him.

**Dr. Robert Grob**, who encouraged me to go to graduate school. At the time, I didn't even know what graduate school was. **John DiBacco**, my sometime roommate, introduced me (and others) to the pleasures of drinking scotch during graduation days.

Performing in the Gambols. I was in three. Learning to play bridge in the cafeteria with Kathy Conley, Lee Malone, David Smith, and others.

I'm sorry to say that I can't come to the reunion. I wish you all my best wishes for a happy and successful time. **Maybe I'll see you at the 60<sup>th</sup>!** How's that for optimism?

### Memories from Avila Hall Tony Basil (60)

Mike Fahey suggested I relate a few memories of my year as "house mother" of Wheeling College's Avila Hall. Some readers may have different memories of the following events and if they do, the readers are probably correct.

During the 1961-1962 school year, I was an instructor of Mathematics at Wheeling College, but I also served as "house mother" to a group of students living in Avila Hall on Washington Avenue. After being hired to teach Mathematics, Frs. Troy and McGroarty asked if I would accept "room and board" for living in Avila with about 13 senior men. I accepted, and remember celebrating my first payday by ordering 13 Big Boys from Elby's to be delivered to Avila.

Shortly thereafter, the men asked me to accompany them to the Howard Johnson Motel for a party. After a few hours, some of us wandered over to Wheeling Downs Race Track. **(continued next page)**



### (Tony Basil stories from Avila Hall continued from page 7)

We enjoyed ourselves as we bet on a few races, won a few dollars and then returned to the party at Howard Johnson. Unfortunately, we stayed a few hours beyond curfew. Upon returning to Avila Hall, we found one person on site waiting for us. That was Father William McGroarty. I nearly lost my job that night.

Avila Hall had three floors and one television. The TV was old and we could get only one station, WTRF Channel 7. Unfortunately, the Academy Awards that year was on another network and we would not be able to watch Ann Margret perform. That evening when I arrived home, all the men were gathered around the TV watching Ann Margret. I was amazed to say the least. **Somehow we had miraculously acquired cable TV.** A few days later, the Chairman of the Mathematics and Physics Department, Father Regis Bead Winslow S.J. asked me to accompany him on a visit to see Mr. Bob Levinson, a good friend of his. Mr. Levinson showed us around Wheeling Cable Company facilities and he mentioned that someone on Washington Avenue had illegally tapped into his cable lines. A few days later someone disconnected Avila Hall from the cable.

The last incident occurred toward the end of that school year. Some men from the house informed me that Mike Fahey was very ill and I should do something. I went to Mike's room and sure enough, he was in bed with a fever in the 105 degree range. I immediately called Dr. Thomas L. Thomas the school physician. Dr. Thomas instructed me to put cold towels on Mike's head and medication was prescribed. Thankfully, Mike survived and as Mike recently stated "saved any embarrassment of having a student die in the dorm". **Because of my skills as a stern disciplinarian (trips to Wheeling Downs etc.) these men turned out to be gentlemen of outstanding character.**

### Memorial Honoring Military Veterans by Tom Kelleher 63

Many years in the planning and a memorial listing the names of Wheeling Jesuit veterans is close to becoming a reality. **The purpose is to honor those who served our country in one of the five armed services.** These individuals who swore to uphold the constitution of the United States of America and to protect it from all enemies, both foreign and domestic are, as responsible for liberty as were the heroes who made America free from the English, who resolved the issues of equality during the Civil War, who twice marched off to Europe, resolved issues with the invasion of Hawaii, deployed to Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and countless other times when our country called for their help. Veterans are proud of their service and most like to do some bragging. For the sake of liberty we are fortunate that these individuals lived! Realize too that their commitment frequently was a pledge to be in harm's way when duty called. Some returned with Purple Heart's and other appropriate recognition. Each veteran would proudly proclaim: "It was my honor to have served." The memorial will acknowledge their service.



ARTIST RENDERING OF THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

Created by the late Harvey Ball

Military Veterans will be honored with their names listed on a granite monument. **The main monument is five-sided, one for each branch of the military.** The American Flag is centered and the names of WJ Veterans will be listed on the granite slab to the right. The Memorial would be **built with income generated from dedicated gifts**, from the sale of pavers (bricks) and granite benches that would surround the monument. Both the pavers and benches will be inscribed with brief messages and the name of the donor. The campus location of the memorial has yet to be determined. Possible sites include the plaza in front of Donahue Hall and the pathway on the right side of the Chapel of Mary and Joseph.

## Veterans Recall Their Stories—Bill Jones Class of 64

After graduation from WC, I attended Georgetown University School of Medicine. After an internship at the US Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA I was assigned as the Medical Officer on the **USS Niagara Falls home ported in Sasebo, Japan**. As it happened, the Niagara Falls was the main supply ship in the Vietnam Theater of operations. We made monthly trips loading supplies beginning in Sasebo and then on to Kaoshuing, Taiwan and Subic Bay, Philippine Islands. The ship then crossed the South China Sea and began resupplying ships near Hai-phong, North Vietnam, which were involved in pilot rescue. Our last sea station for resupplying ships was called south SAR (Sea Air Rescue), another pilot rescue group of ships. **We also provided resupply to two US Navy hospital ships and various Coast Guard ships.**



Our next stop moving south was into the harbor of Danang where the ship anchored and supplies were off loaded via small boat and helicopter. On the first morning of my first trip to Danang, my Captain told me to report to the helicopter and he met me with multiple large bags of food and we flew to the Naval Support Hospital and met with the Captain of the hospital. I was introduced to him and became aware that I was being loaned to the hospital while we were nearby. He told me the time and place to meet the helicopter for our departure, and an old friend who happened to be stationed there took me on a tour of the facility. It was there that I saw my first casualties. **Later, I was sent to both hospital ships and Naval hos-**

**pitals in Sasebo and Subic to provide “aid and assistance”.** We also anchored at the mouth of the Saigon (Mekong) River for monthly visits from the swift boat sailors. I provided them with sick call; battle casualties were flown to a hospital. Lastly, I provided health care for the crew of my ship.

The ship stopped at three **other ports in South Vietnam**, Cam Ranh Bay, Vung Tau, and An Thoi. All were similar in that they were locations for large American military bases. In light demand times I would divert the helicopter to nearby bases and announce myself requesting a jeep and driver. Usually, I was given the keys to a truck and told to return it when finished. This allowed me to explore and make purchases for people on the ship. Some of my forays took me into dangerous areas and curiously bizarre areas. On one of my trips, I was walking down a large boulevard in Vung Tau and came into an area with Chieu Hoi signs and out of bounds for GI's signs. Chieu Hoi was a program which gave North Vietnam Army (NVA) and Viet Cong (VC) enemies' financial incentives to change sides. But, I could not understand why I was not welcome in the area. I found a soup kiosk on the sidewalk and asked the soup man about the signage. He explained that I was in the beach area for VC rest and recreation.



**All was not casual fun and games.** I once had to fly an injured man to an Aircraft carrier (USS America) in the middle of the Gulf of Tonkin. Something was wrong with someone's navigation gear and we had to fly over the beach in North Vietnam for about fifteen minutes. This was the longest fifteen minutes of my life. I was also at the harbor of Kompong Som, Cambodia on May 1, 1970 for the invasion. We took our R&R in Hong Kong and my wife Pat (class of 1966) joined me for a week of shopping the likes of which we've never seen since. The dollar was strong and custom made suits, shoes and furs were the order of the day. Other than jaunts to Tijuana while an intern in San Diego, this was my first time out of the country. I had an incredible opportunity to see six countries and actively participate in the war effort, which has left a permanent impression on me.

As I reflect back on that year, **I thank Wheeling College for the gift of clear thought. We were not aware of it at the time, but the logic, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics prepared our minds for clear analytical thought. I still use it today.**

## Veterans Recall Their Stories Ed Shahady Class of 60

I often think of Vietnam when I am on an airplane and the flight attendant asks us to recognize the men and women of the armed forces who are on the flight. It was not that way when I returned from Vietnam. In fact returning troops may have received ridicule as I did on a few occasions. **I was drafted by the US Navy after my internship.** I had no idea what the military was like but I received a good medical education and the troops needed medical officers. In those days many draftees were headed to Canada to protest the war. I did not want to go to war, face danger and leave my wife and 5 children for a year. But felt that I should do my duty for my country. I was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines Camp Pendleton California. After 6 weeks in California, leaning when and how to salute and how to sleep on the ground, I went to Okinawa and then on to Vietnam.

There were about 1200 Marines, 50 Navy Corpsman, 2 medical officers and one Chaplin in our battalion. **They would be my family and my patients for the next year.** We lost 50 of these brave young men and many more were wounded. I held many of them in my arms as they took their last breath and cried with others as we mourned their loss. The medical experience of war is unique. You not only deal with the tragedy of bullets and bombs but the medical problems associated with living in an undeveloped country with its unique diseases. One of our casualties was a corpsman who died from Amoebiasis that spread to his brain. The water in the “pristine looking streams” in the mountains was loaded with parasites. Yes, everyone had tablets to sterilize the water but it produced a funny taste and was not always used.



**It was easy to be close to God during that year.** The Chaplin and the Medical Office go together on all missions. For the first 6 months it was a Baptist minister (Rev Curt) and the last 6 months a Catholic priest (Fr. Whitt). The picture (left) is taken in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ) between South and North Vietnam. I am pictured with Fr. Whitt in our portable home. I clearly remember one night praying with Fr. Whitt in a foxhole outside of our tent. It brought meaning to the phrase “there are no atheists in foxholes”.

Fr. Whitt also found time to celebrate mass as noted in the picture (right). Using ammo boxes for an altar we would have a 5 to 10 minute mass. A large gathering of troops for any prolonged period of time was usually not possible or advisable.



**One of my great joys of being in Vietnam was the Vietnamese people.** We commonly went in to the surrounding villages to provide medical care. The picture below is of me examining a village child. All of us fell in love with the Vietnamese children. They were the most vulnerable and we could do more for them. All the marines and sailors asked our home towns to send clothes and the hospitals where we trained to send medical supplies for children. Then with the help of the nearby Navy Construction Battalion (Seabees) **we built a 40 bed children’s hospital on our battalion compound.** I learned to speak a little Vietnamese and we hired two village women to help us during the day with cleaning and feeding the children. We cared for children with pneumonia, parasites and dehydration but also faced diseases we had never seen before (bubonic plague, cholera and anthrax). We had a microscope and a corpsman that was excellent at recognizing unusual bacteria and parasites. We also had a Navy Infectious Disease physician from the Naval Hospital in Danang who would visit periodically and help us better understand diagnosis and treatment of these unusual diseases.



I think taking care of these children was a life saver for me. It gave me a positive purpose and helped lessen the pain of not being with my wife and 5 children. Vietnam was a scary time and it took a year away from my family, but it was also a time to think and reflect on my values and purpose in life. It clarified my limitations as a physician but also helped me understand the power of caring and relieving suffering. I was able to provide care for those brave men and help many Vietnamese children to live and give them hope for a better life. As I think about my values today I realize they started with my parents and furthered shaped by my teachers who helped me understand how to actualize these values. **Wheeling College/Jesuit was pivotal in the process.**

## Alumni in Recruitment-Help Recruit Future WJU Students

Dear Wheeling Jesuit Alum,

The WJU Alumni and Enrollment Management departments have one more way that will allow you to RECONNECT with your alma mater and make an impact on our student recruitment efforts.

Alumni in Recruitment (AIR) is a joint effort between the Alumni and Enrollment Management departments that calls upon alumni across the country to assist the Enrollment Management team. With a five-year goal to increase our enrollment to 2,600 students, you, our alumni, are critical to the achievement of this milestone!

AIR offers alumni three ways to aid our recruitment efforts. They are:

**Adopt a High School**—choose a school in your area and be an ambassador

**Participate in a College Fair**—volunteer to represent WJU at a college fair in your region.

**Community Networking**—promote WJU to your social constituency or refer a student you know

A full description of the program can be found at [www.wju.edu/alumni/air](http://www.wju.edu/alumni/air). We hope you will take a few moments to review the information. If you are interested in helping with the program, or have questions, please contact the Alumni Office at 1-800-888-2586, [alumni@wju.edu](mailto:alumni@wju.edu) or fill out the form online.

What better way to serve your *alma mater* than by helping to attract the best and brightest students to our beautiful campus and offering them a chance to receive a Jesuit education.

Luceat Lux Vestra

Kelly Klubert 85

Director, Alumni Relations

Larry Valler

VP, Enrollment Management



**WJU brings out  
the best in all of its  
Students as noted  
by these examples.**



# 50 Year Club Web Site created

# www.50yearclubwju.org

Home Club Newsletters Class of 60 Reunion Class of 61 Reunion Class Gift 50 Year Club Clothing more...

## 50 Year Club Wheeling Jesuit University

The idea for the club was created by Al Reed during the class of 60 reunion planning. The other members of the planning committee composed of Phyllis Faber Kelly, John Mensore, Carolyn Cannon, Sandy Piper Sonneborn, and Ed Shahady enthusiastically endorsed the idea. Al did all the research and provided the structure for the first diploma ceremony that was conducted in June of 2010 during the 50 year reunion of the class of 60.

Members of the class who are unable to attend will receive a certificate by mail. The 50 year club lecture provides an opportunity for alumni to hear from faculty and a alumni member about a topic of general interest. The 2011 topics were "What's new about educational programs at WJU" and "Jesuit values at WJU- are they still here?" The topic for 2012 is "Value of a liberal arts education-is it important". Being an senior ambassador is an honor and a responsibility. Ambassadors volunteer to aid the university with fundraising, enrollement and student mentoring.

**The web site has links to all the prior newsletters, pictures and links to videos of prior 50 year reunions and more memories of WC/WJU**

## Brothers Reunite for 1962 Reunion

In the fall of 1958 **four timid and not very sophisticated young men entered Wheeling College**. These lesser sons of West Virginia included Tom Shahady, Tom Basil, Tom Santer, and Kevin Kerrane . They were very fortunate to have brothers of superior intelligence who would help them navigate the many challenges they would face. Father Gannon in his wisdom placed all the brothers together in the same room in Whelan Hall, so the older and more gifted brothers Ed Shahady(60), Tony Basil 60, Mike Santer (61) and Barry Kerrane (60)-also residing in Whelan Hall-the opportunity to provide daily advice and guidance.

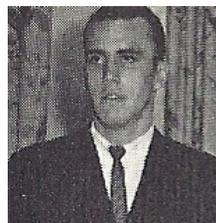
**The younger brothers were immediately aware of the impeccable reputations of their older brothers.** But try as they might they never were able to reach that level of excellence. The older brothers tried their best to help and pleaded with Fr. Gannon for consideration but none of it seemed to work. The last issue of the newsletter contained some incorrect information from some of the younger brothers about their older brothers. So this short piece is duly noted to set the record straight.



Tom Basil



Tom Shahady



Tom Santer



Kevin Kerrane



Tony Basil



Ed Shahady



Mike Santer



Barry Kerrane

## A Bright Future for Wheeling Jesuit

**Applications for admission:** YTD 2012—1,171 as compared to the last five year average of 1,144. (we are attracting more applications)

**Acceptance rate for freshmen:** 2012 - 90% as compared to an average in the last five years of 97%. (we are being more selective)

**Quality of the freshman class:** 75% of the entering freshman have a high school GPA above 3.2; the top 25% of the entering class have a high school GPA of 3.9. (our students are as good as any)

**Revenue from education** for 2012 has increased by 11.8% over 2011 (an increase of more than \$4.2M).

**Alumni giving participation rate:** YTD 2012 = 12.3% (we expect 14% by July 1) as compared with last year's alumni giving rate for FY 2011 of 7.6. (the alumni giving participation rate was 15% in 2007 and has dropped every year until this year.)

**Amount of alumni giving:** total amount of the gifts YTD 2012 from alumni is 44% greater than the total of the entire fiscal year 2011.

**Alumni attendance at school-sponsored events:** we have had a 10% increase in the number of alumni attending events this year and we have increased the number of alumni events by 20%.

**Corporate/foundation giving:** YTD 2012 = \$620,000 - an amount that is greater than any since 2000. It is a 230% increase over last year's total money raised from corporate and foundation grants.

**Advancement money raised:** YTD 2012 is a 57% increase over the entire fiscal year 2011.

## Fifty Year Club Clothing

By Carolina PRINTWORKS (Owner, Doug Aigner '61)



This years T-shirt is made by Eagle USA and is a performance polyester dri-fit tee—very light and can be worn by all ages. It is gray with Wheeling Jesuit on the front, the fifty year logo on the left sleeve and class year on the right sleeve. This is a unisex shirt in sizes small thru 4XL. For sizes above XL add \$3.00 per size up grade.

This years golf shirt is made by Outer Banks and is a Dri-Fit premium 100% performance, microfiber polyester. It is white, embroidered with WJU on the left chest and has the 50 year logo on the left sleeve. (Modeled by Doug Aigner) Styled separately for men and women and available in sizes small to 3XL. Add \$3.00 per shirt for each size above XL.

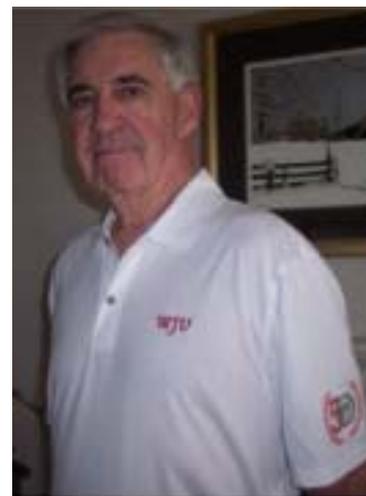
These are beautiful shirts chosen for their premium value, superb softness and excellent quality. Price for both shirts \$65.00. The price includes shipping to your home and a \$10 donation to the 50 Year Club.

Other items are available and may be viewed at

<https://sites.google.com/site/carolinaprintworks>

To place an order or for additional information,

Please call Doug at 704-637-6902



## Fifty Year Club

The Club officers were elected June 2011 for a two-year term: President - Ed Shahady, 1st Vice President - Al Reed, 2nd Vice President - Dan Haller, Secretary - Carolyn Cannon, and Members at Large - Don Mercer and Leo Flanagan.

**By-Laws: Active Membership:** (1) All graduates of Wheeling Jesuit University upon the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the graduation of his or her class. (2) All former members of the class who have attended at least one semester.

**Charter Membership:** indicating the original or founding members shall be open to all members of Classes of 1959 and 1960 who are qualified for Active membership.

**Honorary Membership:** shall be extended to the President of Wheeling Jesuit University and to any other friend of the university.

**Posthumous Membership:** shall be open to those who were otherwise eligible for active membership but are deceased prior to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the class.

**Annual Meeting:** Conducted at the time of the 50 year reunion.

**By-Law Changes:** Recommended by the executive committee and approved by the members at the annual meeting

**Executive Committee:** Consists of all four officers, members at large, the immediate past president, the alumni director and a representative of the Alumni Council. This committee serves as the governing body of the organization. The president of the organization will serve as chair of the committee. The executive committee shall meet periodically by conference call or in person if needed. These meetings will be called by the Chair. The committee will meet in person at least one time a year at the time of the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

**Committees:** Committees and task forces can be appointed by the President and or Executive committee as needed.

**Senior Ambassadors:** Senior Ambassadors are part of the WJU 50 Year Club. Inaugural nominees will be graduates from the classes of 1959 through 1968 who have distinguished themselves through one or more of the following: volunteer community service, humanitarian efforts, academic accomplishments and a successful career.

**Being a WJU Senior Ambassador is both an honor and a responsibility.** Ambassadors are asked to commit their time, dedication and expertise to the school that helped lay the foundation for their successful careers. **This commitment will include one or more of the following: Recruit potential students to WJU, Aid current students with career advice, Cultivate interest in WJU and its projects, Encourage fellow alumni and others to support WJU fund raising activities.** The Senior Ambassadors group met today June 22, 2012 to discuss their future activities. There are 52 individuals who have volunteered to be senior ambassadors. The group meets once a year at the annual reunion and periodically by conference call.

**Alumni Scholar in Residence:** This program was initiated by the 50 Year Club as the Senior Scholar Program. The University Faculty with the leadership of Academic Vice President Steve Stahl and Fr. Jim Fleming suggested a change of name to Alumni Scholar in Residence in order to not limit the choices to senior alumni. **The scholar will be a visiting professor to the University for up to one week and all expenses will be donated by the scholar.** A committee composed of alumni and faculty will make recommendations to the WJU administration of the individuals who will be considered as future Alumni Scholars. The initial scholar was Ed Shahady, M.D., and he was on campus Oct. 30 thru Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 2011. This served as the pilot project and the experience from this year will guide future Scholar activities. **Kevin Kerrane 62 will be one of the scholars for the coming academic year (2012-2013).**



**Cindy Beyer receiving her honorary 50 Year Club diploma from Club 2nd Vice President Dan Haller**