



50 Year Club Newsletter

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Class of 1965 "Septimi" Celebrates 50th Reunion

Table of Contents (pages)

1. Class of 65 - 50 year reunion and class of 60 - 55th Reunion.
2. Fr. Jim Fleming Message
- 3-5. Class of '65 Memories
6. 50 Year Club Lecture
7. Fr. Laut.
8. Stan Marchlenski
9. Class of '61- 55th Reunion
10. Pat Gannon Message
11. 50 Year Club Report
12. Cristo Rey Academy
13. Class of '60 Memories
14. 50 Year Club By-Laws

The Class of 1965 returned to campus on June 19-21 to celebrate their 50th. The following remarks reflect the memories of the reunion from some of the members of the class.

Larry Meagher. Reflecting on the busy, exciting and fulfilling three days of our long anticipated WJU Class of 1965 50th Reunion, I am reminded of the convoluted memories of other, long past, significant events of life. As in those cases (we all have our own list), images of this most "memorable" reunion – wind up as a jumble of one's recollections of one's expectations; and, of the immediate and long term memories of those three days, and of the events, "as they occurred". All admixed, (as in hospital and pharmaceutical parlance), as it were, in the telling and re-telling, seen through the prism of our expectations of the event, – we now have our memories. As a parallel, I am reminded of the weeks and days in the mid 1980's preceding my invitation to interview for two apparently interesting position in Nashville – a city and state never before visited. Images formed, about the institutions, the area, the people, and more. - based on either the description of the 'hosts'; or my own (pre-www) research – and these formed life long images, rock solid and

clear my mind's eye. Months, and years after our relatively brief, three year experience in Nashville, my mind still battles to determine which of my two images of that area is the real one.

The pre-conceived images, or those actually lived. The former often still rule! s the months preceding WJU Reunion 2015 evolved into weeks, and those into the final days – those images of expectation, excitement, and even concern (for success, fulfillment, etc.) transformed into "the" reality. The good news is, that both those "imaginings" and the memories of what "actually" transpired – are both good, if not great. Events, expected, almost unimaginably unlikely, may or may not have actually taken place. But, I still relish the memory – the O'Kane's and Bertie's rendition of "If I Had a Hammer"; or an Ed McGee monologue, rendered in a dialect neither old world, or new. Tom Vogel, actually beating me at golf; and, along with Lu, serving as the perfect MC's for the warm and fuzzy 50 Year Club induction ceremony. Also, Jon, "the Donald" Letzkus, perfectly framing the issues and tone for what we now know as the profound "Issues" Campaign of 2016. (See page 3 for more memories)

Class of 1960 Celebrates Their 55th Anniversary and Performs Gambol Revisited

Many of the members of the class of 60 and others enjoyed watching a bunch of 76 plus year olds perform the Gambol. The chorus line pictured below performed several numbers including the famous "Carolina Kick". Sid Sonneborn represented his late wife Sandy Piper Sonneborn '60. They also sang "The Night They Invented Champagne", "Ballin' th Jack", "Carolina in the Morning" and "Those Were the Days". The grand finale was the original Wheeling College Alma Mater written by Rev. Ed Gannon, S.J.



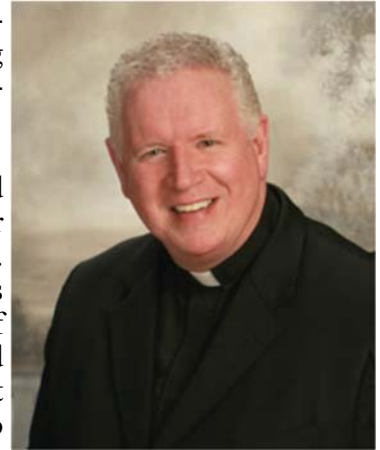
More great memories were provided by Fred Caruso singing "Day-O", Don Mercer on his clarinet playing a medley of "Beatles Songs". Ed Shahady as master of ceremonies brought "Ducknik" back to the stage. John Mensore performed 5 songs and received a standing ovation. Carolyn Cannon organized the chorus and had them practice via conference calls and practices before the Friday evening event. It was a fun event and brought back many of the great memories of our college days. Get ready for our 60th. (see page 13 for more memories)

(R-L) Fred Caruso, Ed Dennison, Connie Megna Weaver, Sid Sonneborn, Carolyn Cannon, Barry Kerrane, and Bob Maybury

Message from University President Father James Fleming

I hope this letter finds our 50 Year Club members well and enjoying the approach of autumn. There is a palpable crispness on campus as summer turns to fall – faculty printing syllabi, shouts from the practice fields, and preparations underway for the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

My own attention turns to gratitude. We are blessed by the generosity of our alums and especially our Senior Ambassadors who provided an astounding \$365,000 in gifts last year and put us over-the-top in achieving the \$1 million goal set for our annual fund, **Drive 365**. Our overall Alumni Giving Rate climbed to a respectable 14% lead by our first 10 classes who gave at an amazing 46% rate with an average gift of \$1,000. In particular, the class of '60 reached a 99% giving rate and the class of '64 led the way again in total dollars raised with \$80,000 in gifts to the school. Now, we start again with a new fundraising year – just like our faculty and students with the beginning of the new academic year. We expect to break more records!



Rev. Jim Fleming, S.J.

As graduates of WJU, you are part of a five-century old intellectual tradition that has been - and still is - accumulating insights from the light of reason and faith. We are the extension of a rich Jesuit tradition and there is something stabilizing, even invigorating about that.

Part of our goal here at the University is to help students understand both what understanding is and where knowing is going (a great phrase coined by John Haughey, SJ). The Jesuit theologian, Karl Lonergan, offered a key insight into where knowing is going. He pointed out that “looking-at” reality does not produce knowledge of reality. Knowledge is a compound act that starts with paying close attention to what one is experiencing in one’s interaction with reality – with others.

After one of our current first-year students returned from the orientation camping trip, she told me:

“I met other freshman who were into a more ‘alternative music scene’ - and in high school I would have thought of them as just that, alternative. But on the camping trip, we were all coping with the dirt and the dark, the outdoor bathrooms and uncomfortable beds - and I discovered that one of the other students had a cat she hated to leave behind too, and another had a mom who also likes to cook with too much garlic. I learned to see them for who they are, not what they are.”

Individual human becoming (integration) takes place in the interactions between self and other - self and the world. Paying attention to what is going-on around you is the first step toward knowing. As JR Tolkien wrote in *The Hobbit*, “It does not do to leave a live dragon out of your calculations, if you live near him.” Ezra Pound captured this need to learn when he said that “real education must be limited to those who insist on knowing, the rest is merely sheep-herding.” I recently completed reading – although I have to admit to a lot of skimming – a book entitled *Excellent Sheep*. The author, William Dershowitz, a Columbia grad and former professor at Yale, reports that he finds the current crop of recent college graduates relatively unimpressive. He detects a lack of curiosity and moral courage, and suggests that this is something that has the stamp of approval from the elite institutions from which they have graduated. He says, “we’ve spawned a generation of polite, striving, praise addicted, grade-grubbing nonentities – a legion of [as he puts in his title] *Excellent Sheep*”.



This is not my experience of WJU grads. We don't encourage excellent sheep. We encourage students to be attentive, reflective, and loving – to blaze a trail for themselves. To consider where their knowing is going.

Be assured that you are in our thoughts and our prayers as the academic year begins .

Tom Vogel 65' receives 50 Year Club diploma from Father Fleming

Father Fleming speaking at the reunion



Class of 1965 memories (continued from page 1) (Larry Meagher) Other images persist; the Ranks, Cindy and Paul, as miners – of all improbable roles. In this case, successfully mining the pocket books of our Septimi classmates to exceed a 50% donor participation level. Peggy Hennessy, evoking time and again, the memories of “Skinny” - our leader of so many past reunions. Tina and Mikie, signing books as the published author's they became – joining Bertie in that category. JTW – Dr. John Wack – the ever reluctant honoree, promising to skip the award ceremony recognizing him as Septimi's #1 faculty member.

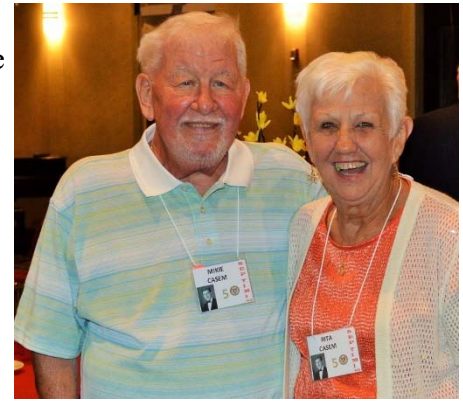
And fulfilling that promise, as predicted by Peggy; receiving the award later in a (very) low key ceremony on the banks of the big Wheeling Creek, scotch in hand. Better yet, for me, sharing the table with Cindy as we debated, and debated, issues large and small. Or listened to the stories we have already heard a dozen times, while we missed those not heard, except in their re-told, and improved versions. As we allow the memories to simmer and the events to form ever more clear pictures of the mind, one truth is crystal clear. It was, in expectation, fact and recollection, an event not to be forgotten. For those who were able to make it - “parabens”, as the Brazilians say.

For those who could not, we hope that the words and images of this and subsequent newsletters, allow you to savor the warmth and joy we felt this past June 19 – 21, 2015. And to know that you were there in our thoughts and prayers. Most of all, enjoy your mind's eye image of what it would have been – because it was just that – and even a bit better! Trust me, it's true. Thanks to the leaders of the 50 Year Club; President Dan Haller, Editor Ed Shahady, all of the WJU Team – Kelly, Noah, Janet, and our loyal and great Septimi Reunion Committee for making this a memorable event!



Class of 1965 Memories (continued from page 3)

Mikie Casem For Rita and me it was a blessing to be able to make the drive one more time back to Wheeling for this very special occasion. Despite the rainy weather, the Alumni Office and 50 Year Club deserve a sincere thank you for accommodating us with a welcoming and gracious venue. The continued growth of the campus is something we should all be quite proud of; a far cry from the handful of buildings and dusty parking lots we encountered half a century ago. It is even more wonderful to learn that the bedrock of St. Ignatius' teaching: humble service to others, has become a vibrant fabric of each student's life; providing him/her increasing opportunities before graduation to "*Let Your Light Shine*" by engaging him/her self in meeting the growing needs of the impoverished and marginalized throughout the Wheeling com-



Mikie and Rita Casem

munity, the State of West Virginia and the world. The highlight of the weekend for us was spending one-on-one time with many old friends, rekindling fond memories, sharing a few life experiences and a survival story or two.

Lu Greer Maloney When my high school fiftieth reunion rolled around, everyone looked great and we had a wonderful time. The occasion made me realize that the WJU one would be coming soon. That revived memories of my husband's Georgetown commencement where the 50 year alums marched and sat in the front rows. They were a bright-eyed lot but seemed to be so diminutive compared to the grads. I wondered if we would show the same contrast. Time marched on and by Spring of 2015 reunion planning was initiated.



Tom Vogel and Lu Greer Maloney moderate diploma ceremony

The volunteer committee was formed with Larry Meagher capably accepting the overall chairmanship and Paul Rank taking on the giving challenge. Many emails and a few conference calls initiated by the ever helpful, competent Janet Nolan were our means of communication. We would hash out various issues with her and Kelly and Noah not to mention receiving helpful suggestions from those who had celebrated their 50th earlier. I found myself looking forward to receiving the reply all messages and found the more involved I became, the more eagerly I anticipated the big weekend itself. Five years earlier on the eve of our departure for the 45th, after having been again involved in the planning with Skinny and Jon, I was awakened in the middle of the night by my husband who needed to go to the ER. Needless to say, we missed that reunion. Although that incident had a good outcome, I was hopeful we would not have to go through a similar episode. Fortunately we did not, but there was DC traffic and some powerful rain storms attempting to deter us.

Once we got there everything was golden. The entire campus welcomed us. Physically the grounds have developed and improved over the years to an impressive degree. The staff was extremely gracious feting us to the best they had to offer and our classmates were treasures. Although there were many wonderful activities planned for us nothing could compare to the joy of catching up with one another. An added bonus was that some of the students from other years were also there. We were each given a certificate of acknowledgment of our Fifty year status in a nice ceremony in a posh theater. There was appropriate recognition of those who had passed. The lines that Fr. Ed Gannon penned in our alma mater "her sons and her daughters though life may them part, will always united be in their mother's heart" took on an especially poignant meaning. An incredible video display of photos taken mostly by Bertie Ryan Synowiec and Al Azzaro brought back a flood of memories. We were treated to our summer reading by our talented authors Bertie, Mikie Casem and Tina Rodgers Leshner. I heartily recommend them. Amazingly several of those who had been our teachers were also there: Fr. Jim O'Brien, Fr. Frank Haig, and Dr. Paul Orr as well as Bob O'Brien. Dr. Wack who we honored was unable to be present. The weekend flew by and we began our trek home filled with happy memories. As we were driving home, I said to my husband I feel like I just went to Brigadoon.

Members of the Class of 1965 Receive 50 Year Club Diplomas

The class of 1965 became the 6th class to receive 50 Year Club diplomas from the University. The tradition was started in 2010 by the class of 1960, along with the creation of the 50 Year Club. Pictured below are several members of the class receiving their diplomas from University president Father James Fleming.



Marybeth Bosworth Ardike



Peggy Daley



Larry Meagher



Paul Rank



Joan Strickler Weeks



Cindy Carr Rank



Dick Synowiec



Jim Onaitis

50 Year Club Lecture/Panel Discussion

Another tradition established by the 50 Year Club is the annual lecture panel discussion. This was the 5th year it was held. It provides an opportunity for members of the 50 Year Club to listen to and discuss a timely topic. This year's topic was the question "Is the type of education we received at WC/WJU relevant in today's world?"

As a means of starting conversation among everyone, moderator Dan Haller '61 asked each of the three panelists—Larry Meagher '65, Cindy Carr Rank '65, and Ed Shahady '60 to share some of their life experiences to illustrate how Wheeling College played a role in our lives after graduation.

Cindy Rank—For me the *experience* of college was as important as, and included more than, just the academic learning that took place during those four years. It was a time of growth and discovery that helped establish a foundation of confidence and curiosity for years to come. Learning how to make personal choices was as fundamental as learning how to answer test questions or how to identify an unnamed substance in chemistry lab. Challenges presented by living and working with others in the college community engendered a sense of responsibility to society beyond myself. For me those lessons have led to decades of professional and volunteer service in our local as well as the statewide community of West Virginia.

Most of those efforts have centered on activities to preserve 'special places' in West Virginia and to protect the 'specialness of place' that clean air, clean water and lush forested mountains provide for those of us fortunate to live in the state and for those who choose to visit. Sparks flew in response to a couple statements by panelists – among them my mention of efforts to hold the coal industry accountable for its damaging legacy. But the ability to talk through such differences of opinion is precisely what distinguishes the type of education we received at Wheeling. As my husband Paul would say, that type of discussion is an exercise that differentiates us from other animals, an exercise where even contentious subjects can be talked about without resorting to violence.

The education process may be somewhat different for young adults in today's world of instant communication and vast amounts of information readily available at the touch of a button or swipe of a screen, but the human interactions and exchange of ideas an education like Wheeling can provide are still unique ... and valuable.

Ed Shahady—As I reflect back on my 4 years at Wheeling College I am grateful for many aspects of my education. I was provided the preparation to be accepted into medical school and the exposure to the Jesuit way of thinking that shaped my compassion for human suffering. I recall Fr. James Muldowney teaching that the basic unit of society is the family and how that fact influenced my decision to become a Family Physician.

Fr. Ed Gannon teaching us about the Thomas Aquinas principle of the double effect where an action has both a positive and negative effect (the primary positive intent must be equal or be greater than the secondary negative intent). I used this principle every day in my practice of medicine. Medications provide an excellent example. Antibiotics are life saving but do have side effects that rarely may be life threatening. Morphine is another example. I recall a patient with severe lung disease in the terminal stage of the disease suffering with severe pain. Morphine was used to relieve the pain, but increased doses suppressed her respirations. She died pain free but the morphine may have contributed to her death. The primary intent was to reduce suffering in the last stages of life, but the non intended effect was suppression of respirations.

Another issue that I mentioned that created "sparks" was how to handle the issue of a woman requesting a termination of pregnancy. I had several female patients who became pregnant and were not sure what to do. Although I would never perform an abortion I did not think it was appropriate for me to impose my beliefs and values on that women. I always asked what they wanted to do and when they asked I made sure they were aware of the options. Many of them did go on to have their baby but some said they wanted to have an abortion. I felt my obligation was to be sure they went to a setting that provided a medically safe procedure and counseling before and after the procedure. I recall as an intern in the emergency room, nine years before Roe vs Wade, providing care for a 16 year old girl who had a "coat hanger" abortion and eventually died from sepsis. Every time I faced the decision of providing advise to women/girls with an unwanted pregnancy I was reminded of that girl. Her death would have been prevented with a safe procedure.

My remarks led one member of the audience to state that I was pro-choice and that in his mind that was a sin. I agreed that my decision would be considered pro-choice but that forcing my values on another person was not appropriate. I felt that my Jesuit education taught me how to make difficult decisions with compassion for those who suffer.



Dan Haller moderating the discussion

Father Stephan Laut by Dr. Paul Orr

In late August, 1959, Fr. Stephen J. Laut, S.J., Ph.D., arrived in Wheeling as Assistant Professor in the College's English Department and as its Chair. Six foot, full-bodied with an almost round face topped by a brush cut, he could easily have impersonated Friar Tuck at any medieval feast featuring Robin Hood and His Merrie Men.

During Registration, soon after his arrival, junior English major Dee-dee Powers worried to a friend "there's only two of us junior English majors left. Am I making a mistake? Is it too late to change?" It was indeed too late to change, but her friend stressed the positive: "There are some great majors going into sophomore year. Kerrane, DiPiero, that crazy bunch. The upper division courses will be good." The friend almost got it right. The courses weren't just "good", they were "great".

By graduation day of 1969, the end of Laut's responsibilities as Chair, many of the graduating seniors were English majors and a "crazy" twenty six juniors were ready for senior year. Although the English Department then was more than adequately staffed, beyond any question, Father Laut's well-deserved reputation as teacher and personality was the main reason for its major program's steady surge in popularity.

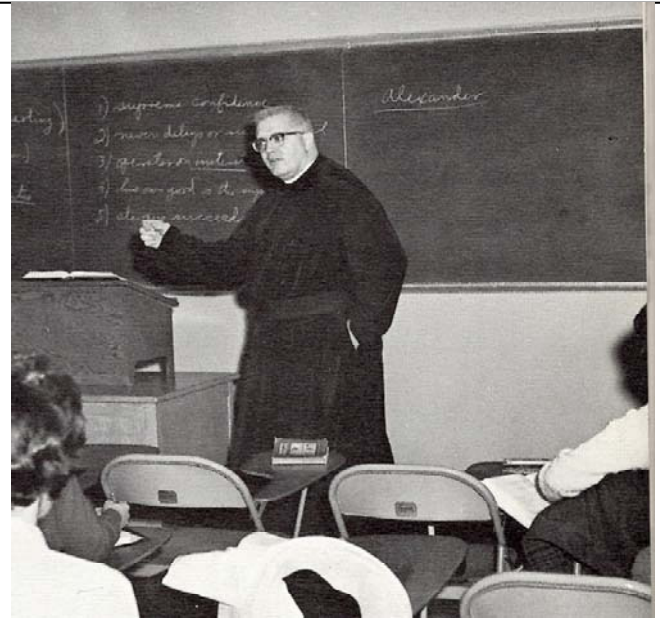
Many students, majors and non-majors, justified taking as many of his courses as possible by saying "Father Laut gives good notes and he's funny." Like many student explanations, this was true but quite inadequate. Laut's goal was that his students learn the subject matter by enjoying the process. To reach that goal, he made sure that every person in his classroom easily understood what he said, found it interesting, knew why he said it, could record it easily if he or she chose (**more fools they if they didn't**), and could review and retain the matter easily. He made learning easy and fun, and everybody, (well, almost everybody) learned, and many decided "this is the major for me."

But easy learning demands varied and extensive preparation and a clear and attention-holding classroom presentation. Laut's preparation, years of study focused by hours prior to each meeting, was wide and thorough.

Ordinarily he began each class by distributing a study guide which listed a series of statements, with double-spacing and a blank space to the right of each. Laut would then expand on each of the statements, summarizing his point by supplying a catch phrase to be written in the blank opposite the statement. Who could then forget the relevance of Edmund to Shakespeare's King Lear once his role was summarized as Vicious Riser? If memory serves, once upon a time an intramural-team rejoiced in that name. At unpredictable intervals, he would rap out a question, usually to someone he was confident knew the answer. "What point in an earlier lecture is relevant here?" Thus, he encouraged attention and gave a quick review. One to two minutes for that, then on to the next issue.

His presentation, moreover, was masterly. Clear, in idiomatic often colloquial speech, with witty or humorous asides or enlargements, he often emphasized a point by a sports metaphor. "When Shakespeare wrote Hamlet," he would say, crouching slightly over an imaginary plate, waving an imaginary bat, channeling Shakespeare as Joe DiMaggio, "he hit it out of the park." His expression was often nearly deadpan, betrayed only by expressively wrinkled forehead and scalp-high eyebrows. Confronted by blatant absurdity or willful ignorance, his expression of patient suffering suggested that of the Virgin Mother's late on Good Friday.

In everything he did, in popular talks to civic or parish organizations, in essays for the Diocesan newspaper, in scholarly presentations to West Virginia's Shakespeare Association (of which he was a co-founder), in reviews of symphony concerts, in playing recordings of classical music and commenting on them to any who chose to hang out in the Lounge Sunday afternoons, in brief, conscience-challenging homilies in the college chapel or from parish pulpits, he treated serious issues lightly from his individual perspective. "Jesus as Comic" was a real hit. Reviewing a symphony concert "Maestro Kries and his music makers" he noted "The English Horn had a slight plumbing problem during the second movement, but it was quickly resolved and in no way compromised the brilliance of the brass section."



Fr. Stephen Laut teaching

(Continued from page 7 Fr. Laut)

The decade of the seventies was darkened by health problems. A multiple heart by-pass in 1973, hospitalized him for weeks. At his discharge, his surgeon warned "remember now: for six weeks NO SEX,!" Laut rolled with it. "I can handle that" he said. But problems recurred. Late in '78, he was back in the hospital for a long stay; he returned to campus in the spring with only a few weeks of life remaining.

Father Rector planned to send him to the Jesuit facility at Wernersville for those last weeks, but alumna, Cathy Adams Gurlie, objected, perhaps stridently. "How can you do that? If you won't care for him here then I will. Terry and I have a front room and he can see the campus, from there. I'll care for him there." She prevailed. Father Laut spent his last weeks on the campus he loved, visited when his strength permitted by many grieving friends, unofficially monitored and well-cared for by Cathy. As the days dwindled down to the very few, the English Department decided that more attention must be paid and started things rolling, by-passing Public Relations in the interests of efficiency. Alumni Director Ann McGeary, made phone calls and sent out urgent letters. James Casciotti, S.J., the cassock-wearing Scholastic, recruited the Chaplain's resources. The English faculty phoned former majors. Psychology major Elaine Kimmel '79) designed a striking flyer, announcing "A Celebration of Life" and this was widely distributed. Almost at once, letters started to arrive. Linda Mizejewski ('73) wrote a poem testifying in understated simplicity to the life-changing effects of a great teacher.

All letters expressed love and support. At midnight on the Friday before the "Celebration", Andre Fouant '79, and a crew of friends came to Swint Lounge and cleaned it up after that night's undergraduate uproar. When they were finished, the lounge was as swept and garnished as the New Testament's Upper Room. Many alumni came, some from long distances. Jack and Beth Noonan, for example, from Richmond, Virginia, others from even farther. On that Saturday, a stream of friends, alumni, and teacher-bereft undergraduates crowded Swint Lounge. Mary Anne Hopkins had enlisted other musician friends so that a quartet played softly in one corner as, one by one, his friends and admirers went up to Laut to say "Thanks. We love you." A tearful Joyce Ross '74 choked out "I never lived up to your expectations, did I Father? I'm sorry." But you did, Joyce" he said, patting her hand. "You did. You were a wonderful student."

The key event, of course, was the Liturgy celebrated in Donahue's Chapel, jammed with undergraduates, alumni, friends, lay faculty, and the Jesuit community. Laut gave a very brief homily. Terry Gurlie introduced him, deliberately misquoting Shakespeare. Laut did a double take, forehead wrinkled, eyebrows high. Terry looked back, a sort of "gotcha" expression on his face. Silently, the two friends, the old entertainer and the young one, acknowledged each other. Then, gaunt-looking but his voice as steady and strong as ever, Laut began,

Soon, like the legendary Swan, I may rise Up! Up! singing beautifully. Higher, higher! Singing all the way.

Then, I'll lose momentum, turn and start down, dropping like a stone, and then: SPLATT!! all over the walk in front of Donahue." Then he thanked people for sharing their lives with him and said "Goodbye."

As dedicated priest exemplifying the Jesuit way, as teacher, counselor, friend, whether reveling in the riches and absurdities of life or calmly facing his immanent death, Father Stephen J. Laut, S.J., "hit it out of the park."

Stan Marchlenski '59 by niece Cindy Perring

Stanley Patrick Marchlenski born on March 3, 1925, the 12th of 14 children born to John and Anelia Wiszniewski Marchlenski. In his youth his interest turned to boxing and his reputation was reminiscent of Gene Tunney, the Heavyweight Champion from 1926-1928. From that time forward, Stanley would be known by Family and Friends as "Tunney".

After graduating from Wheeling Central Catholic High School, Tunney worked in the Family-founded Electric Appliance Service business as well as other electronics service businesses in Wheeling. Eventually he had the opportunity to attend Wheeling College and in 1959 became a member of the first graduating class. Soon he took a job with RCA in Columbus, Ohio and moved to Buckeye Lake. His career as an engineer resulted in his work on Government projects at the Newark Air Force Base. He bought a piece of wooded property in Newark and built a home, where he lived for the next fifty years.

Tunney's home on his wooded property leant itself well to his interests of photography, reading and development of inventions, several for which he obtained patents. He was a writer of essays, two of which are especially memorable: "*Amor Dei Et Patriae*" and "*Killed In The Mine*". The first deals with the War Memorial Grotto built on the grounds of St. Ladislaus Church, the "Polish Church" in South Wheeling. The second gives a thumbnail description of the early Polish Immigrants who worked in the coal mines of the Ohio Valley and the City of Wheeling, West Virginia. Tunney posed questions to others and encouraged them to think and to arrive at solutions by careful examination of the subject matter. His normal daily behavior was that of investigating his surroundings and acquiring new knowledge. His love learning continued throughout his life and he wanted to share this love with others. Tunney cherished his education at Central Catholic High School and later at Wheeling Jesuit University, and by remembering these two Institutions of Learning with the bequest of his Estate, he has done just that. The lives of Students interested in Science in both schools will be touched by his gift. His Friends and Family will continue to be touched by his life.

Class of 1961 to Celebrate 55th Reunion June 24-26, 2016

Dan Haller and John Eagan McAteer recently met with Paul Orr to do some planning for the reunion. They promise to create a skit similar to that of 2011 that portrayed some of the students and faculty that made college days memorable from 1957-61. Below is another great memory provided by Dan Haller. A letter from Fr. Gannon encouraging attendance at the 25th reunion for the class of 61.



BEST SELLERS

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON
 • SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510
 (717-961-7530)

January 30, 1986

Edward Gannon, S.J., Ph.D.,
 Editor

Dear 61! (Tertii),

To bring back memories before starting this letter I took down your yearbook, and it opened on the single most charming picture I ever saw in any yearbook: Diane DiPiero and Jeannie Santer, high hats, canes and tails. Turning to the beginning I found the dedication to Cliff Lewis, and, on the next page genial Jane Straub and Jim Friday, "not knowing what was ahead of them . . ." Memories flooded in.

The first was hearing myself often say that you were the best group accepted during my time at WC. And the tragedies some of you have borne, the wide variety of kinds of lives you've lived and demanded of yourselves bear that out still.

The point in my writing is to get each of you to the 25th reunion (June 27-29). And let me tell you that though I've been to over 100 reunions in my life, the last two at WC, classes of '59 and '60, were distinctively different from all the others. Lots returned hesitantly: who doesn't become wary and on edge anticipating new encounters with individuals you're half afraid to see again? (Note that only those that feel comfortable with themselves go to reunions anyway.) None left unfulfilled. The first two classes of founders of WC came home, mused, compared, felt a rush of wonder and thanks for those strangely confident days back then, and saw, maybe for the first time, how much they genuinely cared for each other, and saw for the first time how much they were genuinely cared for by the others. And emotions rose shamelessly to the surface. (Stan Marchlenski, saying goodbye two years ago on Sunday, remarked, "I cried more these three days than I did in the 25 years since I was here.")

Tom Carrigan, '59, who knows each of you, will run the reunion. I'll be back, and probably more faculty than ever will join Joe Hanzely, Eileen Carpino, Bruno Hartung and Paul Orr in welcoming you. I have promised to get Dottie Torrese (Bardin) back, and let's all corral Sam Carcione. You CAN go home again.

Servus.

E. G., S.J.

Message From Pat Gannon '72' President of Alumni Council

Where did summer go? It seems like only yesterday that we were enjoying the company of our classmates at Alumni Weekend! This year's event honored the 50 Year Club members with a "Members Only" dinner, while the rest of the alumni met at the "Alpha" on campus. **Before the dinner new members of the 50 Year Club attended an induction ceremony and cocktail party hosted by President Jim Fleming.** The following night the traditional Alumni Awards dinner was conducted in the Benedum Room, where the Alumni Council recognized Kelly Klubert for her years of dedicated service to WJU and its alumni. Kelly was surprised and moved by the presentation of the "Guiding Light" recognition lamp.

During the dinner, Fr. Fleming thanked all alumni for their generous participation in Drive 365 and gave special recognition to the 50 Year Club members for their extraordinary effort and generosity. On behalf of the entire WJU Alumni Council, please accept our congratulations and thanks to all members of the 50 Year Club. Your generous contributions of time, talent and/or treasure to DRIVE365 made the campaign a fantastic success! Clearly, without your individual efforts, DRIVE365 could not have surpassed its goal. You've set an example for those of us who have yet to become members of the 50 Year Club. Thank you!

Since Alumni Weekend, your fellow alumni have been busy. In August, alumni gathered with upper classmen to provide assistance for Move-In Day and to welcome incoming freshmen and their families. From past experience, I can tell you that this is an enjoyable event, and I would urge each of you to consider participating and providing a helping or guiding hand.

During the week of September 14, the WJU Alumni Council, in conjunction with Dean Robert Phillips and WJU, hosted the First WJU Professionalism Week. Fellow alumni provided guidance to students by sharing life experiences and conducting mock interviews. Presentations were also provided on Networking & Resume Writing, Social Networking Pros & Cons, and Interviewing 101.

Going forward, there are still multiple opportunities for WJU alumni to get involved. Plans are underway for a mentoring program. All of us have experience that could help a student and volunteers are needed. If you are interested in learning more, contact Toni Wilson Moran at tonilm@hotmail.com.

Our Alumni in Recruitment (AIR) program continues to grow! Fall is a busy time for recruitment and there are numerous ways to help. Christopher Rouhier '11, Admissions Representative, and Tom Burke '72, Chair of AIR, have been working together to expand this program. To hear more about AIR, learn more about getting involved, and/or to share your ideas and suggestions, you can reach out to Chris at crouhier@wju.edu or (304) 905-3129, or Tom Burke at tburke13@gmail.com.

Last, but certainly not least, your Alumni Council voted to support a program that will provide opportunities for alumni to participate in spiritual retreats. Fr. Jim Fleming has indicated his support for this and Fr. Jim O'Brien has expressed a desire to provide guidance. We are additionally seeking volunteers willing to work with us to bring this idea to fruition. Please contact me with suggestions and/or offers to assist in the organizational phase.

Again, I would like to thank each and every one of you, for all that you do for Wheeling Jesuit University and the WJU community!

Patrick Gannon '72, President, patrickjgannon@aol.com, 440-526-2196



Pat Gannon (left) with Don Mercer (center) and John Mensore (right) Hall of Honor recipients from the Class of 1960.

FIFTY YEAR CLUB REPORT by Dan Haller President

Alumni Weekend: June saw the induction of the Class of 1965 Alumni into the Fifty Year Club. As part of the usual role in alumni weekend events we presented a Saturday panel discussion on the value of a liberal arts education in light of criticism from certain commentators from the tech area that it has become irrelevant. Cindy Rank, Larry Meagher and Ed Shahady were our panelists. All reflected on how their liberal arts education at WJU affected their own lives and careers in a positive way and would still be relevant to a new generation.

Scholar in Residence: Our scholar last September was Jim Smith '64. Jim has had a distinguished career as a judge, Baltimore County executive and Maryland Secretary of Transportation. As an English Major greatly influenced by Paul Orr and Father Steve Laut, Jim added his own voice to those extolling the value of a Jesuit infused liberal arts education. This year's scholar in residence is Christina Richey '10, a Ph.D. in physics and senior scientist working with NASA. Each of our scholars spends several days on campus visiting classes and meeting informally with both students and professors. In addition, arrangements are made for them to address local groups such as Rotary and to be interviewed by local media.

Drive 365: As part of WJU's DRIVE365 fund raising effort that ended June 30th, the Fifty Year Club and Senior Ambassadors (Classes 1959-1968) raised a total of \$382,318—\$32,318 above the stated goal of \$350,000. A well deserved "thank you" to all of you who pitched in.

Planned Giving Program: Members of the Fifty Year Club also worked with the Advancement Office and Father Bill George to develop a planned giving program. Recall that Steven Haid '63 first raised the need for such a program several years ago. Attorneys John Lewis '80 and Matt Rack '01 of the Metz Lewis Law Firm in Pittsburgh graciously agreed to donate their time to the effort. They will counsel anyone interested in exploring planned giving possibilities free of charge. During Alumni Weekend, the Planned Giving Program was introduced by Father George, John and Matt in conjunction with a beer tasting that involved several local brews. The event was well attended and a number of people expressed interest in including WJU in their estate plans.

Archive Project: Over the past year, Don Mercer '60, John Egan McAteer '61 and Kris Kreger '96 have done an excellent job on the expanding the Archive Project. During the reunion weekend, they mounted an interesting series of displays that, with Kris' excellent technical assistance, will be made into permanent display pieces.

Career Development Program: We have lent our support to the Alumni Association's effort in putting together a Career Development Program. It will be a week long program directed and staffed by alumni volunteers to help students prepare for an interview, develop an effective resume and utilize media tools such as Linked In to enhance their employment possibilities.

FIFTY YEAR CLUB GOALS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

1. Select the next Scholar in Residence. Do you have someone in mind? Forward the name to Dan Haller
2. Support the University's upcoming fund drive and planned giving efforts.
3. Urge members of the first fifteen classes to give serious consideration to becoming members of the Troy Legacy Society which anticipates including WJU as part of their estate planning.
4. Nominate and elect new officers for the Fifty Year Club and select Senior Ambassadors from the classes '69 - '75.
5. Continue to solicit donations of significant items to the Archives Project.

50 Year Club Web Site—Go to www.wju.edu/alumni/50yearclub

Cristo Rey Summer Academy Program a Resounding Success

In July, WJU held two Cristo Rey Summer Academy (CRSA) sessions to provide 65 juniors from Cristo Rey high schools information on making it to college and making it in college. The CRSAs were free of charge to the students, thanks to the generosity of numerous donors.

The CRSA was an immersive, two-week college prep experience with guided help in two areas: Making it to college: filling out college applications, choosing potential schools, timelines, and obtaining financial aid. Making it in college: developing time management skills, course selection, balancing academic and social activities, and accessing support services. Other CRSA activities included two abbreviated college courses, service learning, guest lectures and reflection.

"I loved it," said Nautica Prater, a CRSA participant. "My best friend decided to come here and she pulled me along with her. I am so glad I decided to come and have this experience." The two-week events were held on campus July 5-17 and July 19-31. Students from Cristo Rey schools in

Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C. and New Jersey attended. Cristo Rey high schools are Catholic, college prep schools serving 9,000 high-achieving, students from low-income families in urban areas. Throughout high school, the Cristo Rey students work at companies and organizations to help earn their tuition.

The CRSA workshops were led by WJU experts and faculty members, working with the students in groups and individually. Wheeling Jesuit students also served as group leaders and mentors. The CRSA students had an opportunity to explore the WJU campus and surrounding areas during leisure and recreational activities. They also formed friendships with other CRSA and Wheeling Jesuit students.

"One of the joys of the Academy was introducing the students to college life in a unique context," said Fr. Matt Cortese, SJ, the Academy Director. "We wanted to provide them with the knowledge and tools they need to discover their desires for college and discern what sort of college experience would be best for them."

Wheeling Jesuit University has a special connection with the Cristo Rey High School network, which counts many Jesuit schools in the group. WJU has many former Cristo Rey High School students currently attending and the University hopes to admit more in the future.



CRSA students attended sessions, including college course work, to prepare them for college life.



(L-R): Camilla Riley (Don Bosco Cristo Rey in Takoma Park, MD), Ricardo Ramirez (Cristo Rey New York), and Anna Arias (WJU student and group leader)

Class of 1960 Celebrates 55th Anniversary



Barbara and Tony Basil '60



Fr. Bill George and Ed Shahady '60



Marion Riser and Carolyn Cannon '60



John '60 and Tulane Mensore



Connie Megna Weaver 60 and Jim Weaver '59



Beth and Don Mercer '60



JL Lyons '62 and Barry Kerrane '60

50 Year Club

The following individuals were elected as Club officers and board members to serve June 2015-June 2016. President-Dan Haller '61, 1st Vice President-Al Reed '60, 2nd Vice President-Don Mercer '60, Secretary-Terri Haid '63, Past President-Ed Shahady '60, Members at Large - Barbara Creamer Yeager '59, John Eagan McAteer '61, Fr. John DiBacco '62, Terri Haid '63., Geno Julian '64 and JJ Lauer '64, Larry Meagher '65.

By-Laws: Active Membership: (1) All graduates of Wheeling Jesuit University upon the 50th 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 50th 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, and the immediate past president, the alumni

director and a representative of the Alumni Council, will serve 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 50th 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 first Senior Ambassadors group met June 24, 2011 to discuss their future activities. There are 54 individuals who have volunteered from the classes of 59 through 64. The group meets yearly at the time of the reunion and then by conference call during the year. Senior Ambassadors have been very dedicated fund raisers for WJU. **DRIVE365** is the year long campaign (July 2014 through June 2015) and the Senior Ambassadors pledged to raise \$365,000. The Ambassadors from the classes of 1959-1968 made personal contacts to classmates asking for their support of the University. They surpassed their goal by raising \$382,318 by June 30, 2015.

Alumni Scholar in Residence: This program, initiated by the 50 Year Club in 2011, represents a partnership with the university faculty and administration. A committee representing all three groups selects the scholar and coordinates the campus visit. **The scholar will be a visiting professor to the University for up to one week and all expenses will be donated by the scholar.** Ed Shahady, M.D. '60 was our first initial scholar, spending time on campus fall of 2011. Joan Doverspike Davison, Ph.D. '78 was on campus fall of 2012. Dick Riley, Ph.D. '84 was on campus fall of 2013. The Honorable James Smith '64 was on campus fall of 2014. Christina Richey, Ph.D. '04 was the scholar for 2015. The Alumni Scholar Program has been very successful and demonstrates the quality of WJU graduates to the students and faculty of WJU. Anyone with extensive teaching experience is invited to submit their resume to esha-hady@att.net.



JJ Lauer '64 receiving his 50 Year Club