



50 Year Club Newsletter

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Volume 6 Issue 1 February 2015

Class of 1960 Plans 55th Reunion and Gambol 55 Years Later

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The reunion planning committee for the Class of 1960 is busy preparing memorable activities to celebrate their 55th reunion June 19-21, during Alumni Weekend 2015. The committee members are: Carolyn Cannon, Al Reed, Don Mercer and Ed Shahady. Classmates should have, or will be receive personal phone calls from the committee to encourage attendance and memory sharing.

Friday evening events begin at 5 PM with the conferring of 50 Year Club diplomas to the class of 1965, followed be a chance to socialize at the President's reception and then enjoy dinner. Following the ceremony and dinner the crowd will be treated to what a bunch of 75 plus year olds can remember about the **GAMBOL from 50 years ago**.

There will be a chorus line similar to the one to the left. Pictured from the 2010 GAMBOL re-



visited are Carolyn Cannon (leader and motivator), Phyllis Faber Kelley, Barry Kerrane, Bob Maybury, Ed Dennison, Joe Doyle, Marc McKonic, Sandy Piper Sonneborn, and Skeet Burke. They will entertain us with "Hey Look Me Over", "On the Sunny Side of the Street", "Carolina in the Morning" and "Those Were the Days".

More great memories will be provided by Fred Caruso ("Day-O"), Pio Tei ("Sorrento" and "Long Ago and Far

Away"), John Mensore ("Songs by Sinatra"). Don Mercer with a medley of "Beatles Songs" on his clarinet. Ed Shahady will be the MC, and bring "Ducknik" back to the stage. 2015 will see a repeat by the above performers and Carolyn is busy putting the chorus line together.



John Mensore and Ed Shahady

Class of 1965 to celebrate their 50th anniversary and receive 50 Year Club diplomas.



JJ Lauer '64 receiving his 50 Year Club diploma from President Jim Fleming, S.J.

Members of the class of 1965 will join the classes of 1959 thru 1964 as members of the 50 Year Club. Each member of the class will receive a 50 Year Club diploma from WJU President Fr. Jim Fleming, S.J. during the fifth formal diploma ceremony.

For information on the 50 Year Club, Senior Ambassadors and the Alumni Scholar in Residence program, see page 10.

Fourth Annual 50 Year Club Lecture and Discussion

Time: Sat., June 20—10:30 AM

Location: Troy Theater

Title: The Value of a Liberal Arts Education at WJU

Moderator: Dan Haller '61

Other alums as speakers

Alumni Council Report

Pat Gannon '72 Council President

The Wheeling Jesuit University Alumni Council (AC) has been hard at work serving the university and its alumni in a variety of ways, and the 50 Year Club members are, as usual, at the heart of it all. Although there are many projects that the AC has in the works, there are two areas that can have an enormous impact: **Drive 365** and the **Alumni In Recruitment (AIR)** program. Each is crucial to WJU and gives alumni the opportunity to help current and future WJU students and the WJU community.

Washington Monthly and *U.S. News & World Report* have once again ranked WJU among the best colleges in the country and the top educational institution in West Virginia, respectively. For the 18th straight year, *U.S. News Best Colleges Guide* has rated WJU the top college in West Virginia. *Washington Monthly* ranked WJU the fourth best baccalaureate college in the country.

Drive 365 is WJU's primary fundraising campaign this fiscal year. An overall goal of \$1 million has been set by WJU and our Senior Ambassadors have set out to raise \$365,000 of that goal by June 30, 2015. It was announced in January, that we were halfway towards reaching that goal. The Senior Ambassadors have raised \$165,000 towards their goal. This is a Great Start! A total of 641 alumni, or 6.4% of all alumni, have given to **Drive 365**, thus far. The national average among Jesuit universities is 16%.

Alumni participation in annual giving is a critical factor in WJU's rankings. Charitable and corporate foundations also look at the level of alumni participation when evaluating universities and when deciding to give grants and money. The greater our alumni support WJU, the more likely WJU will be viewed in a favorable light. **Drive 365** has two goals: to raise money **and** to raise the level of annual alumni participation. Both are critical. Every gift, regardless of the amount, helps us reach both goals, and has a significant impact on WJU and its ability to continue to provide an educational experience equal to its recent rankings.

What can you do to help?

- Call, write, email, text or tweet (whatever that is) your friends and ask them to participate in Drive 365, regardless of the level.
- Write a check
- Go online to WJU's secured website at: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/wju/> and make a donation.
- Set up your automatic banking to make donations to WJU annually, monthly or whatever means works best for you. Small regular donations add up!

You may also contribute in the name of an alumnus that you wish to honor, or is not able to make a donation. Tax credit is given to the party making the donation, but alumni participation can be given to the classmate you choose to honor. For details, contact: Noah Mull '09, Director of Annual Giving, at (304) 243-8148 or nmull@wju.edu. And last, but certainly not least, please join us for the second annual **Gaudioso** celebration to be held at WJU on March 28, 2015, at 6 P.M. Ticket purchases will be counted toward **Drive 365** and alumni participation.

In addition to **Drive 365**, we can have a tremendous impact on student recruitment through participation in the **Alumni In Recruitment (AIR)** program. Alumni efforts in the **AIR** program have been notable. Last Fall, your fellow alumni attended 30 College Fairs across the United States. Alumni attended fairs from Connecticut all the way down to Florida, and as far west as California and Texas. Members of **AIR** also met with hundreds of potential students by attending fairs at individual high schools when WJU Admissions Representatives were unable to cover these events.

If you are interested in becoming an AIR volunteer, please fill out the AIR Volunteer Form at <http://www.wju.edu/alumni/air/>, contact Kelly Klubert '85, Director of Alumni Relations at alumni@wju.edu or 1-800-888-ALUM (2586), or contact Tom Burke '72 at tburke13@gmail.com.

You also can refer a friend or the child of a friend. We all know potential WJU students. Keep WJU in mind when you talk to teenage students, and younger. Let them know how Wheeling Jesuit has made a difference in your life.

A Set of Wheeling College Twins—by Paul Rank '65

This is a tale of two Wheeling College grads, Edward Xavier Rank '61, and Paul Aloysius Rank '65. Born in the small town of Donora, PA, 30 miles south of Pittsburgh, on the banks of the Monongahela River the twins were not even close enough in resemblance to be seen as brothers. A premature birth to a 44 year old mother Mary, and weighing about 4 pounds apiece, they were not expected to make it to Wheeling College some 18 to 22 years later.



Edward, twenty minutes the younger was the nerdy looking one and he was to fulfill that image for the rest of his life. At about age eight the twins were offered the opportunity to subscribe to their very own magazine as their mother knew the value of reading. Ed subscribed to Readers Digest while Paul, thinking that a picture is worth a thousand words, subscribed to Life Magazine. This probably was telling and set the stage for Ed's matriculation to Wheeling College (WC) while Paul found meaning in the idea of holding down two jobs during and after high school. One was at Isaly's, where he became an assistant manager, and the other was as a tobacco chewing laborer/truck driver in new housing construction.

Ed's profile on a time line was as follows: in 8th grade he won the Mon Valley Serra Club's essay contest entitled "Why I Want to be a Priest" (the best guess is he died an agnostic), and he was 3rd in his high school graduating class of about 150. His twin was 75th, though the twin went to the high school senior prom and Xerxes didn't. Yes, Ed secured the lead role in the senior school class play as Professor Xerxes, a precursor to being known at WC as X Rank, a name he officially adopted at least on one checking account later in life.

He gained acceptance to Wheeling College with a scholarship, majoring in physics. He carried around a slide rule, and could find humor in books of advanced calculus problems. The former impressed his twin, the latter baffled the twin. While at WC X was known as a stoic with a weird, maybe devious, sense of humor. He ran the snack bar in the dining hall and was the polisher of the snack bar's floor. He was an avid and good bridge player, and created a two-story high multicolored stalactite icicle that hung from his McHugh Hall room window to the ground below. Being stoically devious, he was occasionally the target of his dorm-mates pranks; upon returning to his room on night, he found it filled to a height of 4 feet with crumpled newspapers. Knowing that the pranksters were

watching, feigning innocence from nearby, he then without hesitation pulled a pack of matches from his pocket, lit them one at a time, tossing them into the room saying something like "somebody clean this mess up before the place burns down."

According to his classmate Dan Haller, the pinnacle of his "one-upmanship" was when Fr. Ed Gannon, SJ thought X was nodding off in his class as X's eyes were closed and his head was bobbing. Remember he worked late nights polishing floors. Evidently there was no napping in Gannon's class as he called on Mr. Rank to enlighten the class on the merits of some philosophical principal. X snapped to attention and gave a remarkably correct and detailed explanation, leaving the Reverend somewhat chagrined and at a loss for words, not an easy thing to do.

Now, to the more serious time line: X did very well at WC, went to John Carroll Univ. to get his master's in physics, then took a job at the Naval Research Lab (NRL) near Washington, DC. There he worked with WC classmate Ed Sharp on radiation dosimetry and plasma physics among other things. His pride and joy was the sometimes disputed role the NRL played in the invention of the GPS system. To this day the NRL claims it was their people whose final product is the GPS we cannot do without today. He ended his career as the NRL's nationwide Facilities Director, for which he was awarded the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award (the Navy's highest Civilian award). The award was for saving the Research Lab millions of dollars by refurbishing most of the aging buildings (built ca. 1923) at the main campus one at a time because monies could not be secured from the private sector nor from the government for new construction. He was less honorably known for implementing the NRL campus wide "no smoking" policy while exempting only his office. X tended to live by his own logic and rules. Though sadly, it was smoking that would take his life a few years later, only months before his retirement.

He enjoyed life, as he partnered in a sports car racing team called "Team Turtle" with WC classmate Ed Sharp and others, racing in events up and down the east coast. He owned a small boat, and was very near securing a pilot's license for flying. Most impressive was the discovery after his passing that he had been dedicated to helping drug afflicted and abused women he encountered at his favorite watering hole, offering them shelter and support while they tried to and often did get their lives back together. This was revealed at his wake where at least 4 or 5 women, one who traveled all the way from the state of Washington, asked to speak at the wake about how X had saved their lives.

There is no doubt that this service to others was in no small part due to the influences of Wheeling Jesuit.

(continued next page)

A Set of Wheeling College Twins (continued from page 3)

Now to the elder, the comparatively outgoing twin, the "people person" as their sister would say, the better looking one till he lost his hair. Ed never experienced that curse. Paul envied his brother's slide rule and respected the haunting reality that a Wheeling College education seemed to instill in students the humility of understanding that while learning, there was still a world of things unknown. Whereas, pals back home in Donora seemed to be overly confident that they knew it all when it was so obvious that they didn't. The contrast was stark and motivating. So brother Paul, the elder, was talked into selling his car that two jobs had purchased, saying good bye to all his girl friends, buying a sports coat and setting off to Wheeling West Virginia, a very long ride across route 40, the so called National Road, in search of the envied slide rule.

Majoring in mathematics at Wheeling College, when one got through the science curriculum at Donora Senior High School solely because his twin brother was a bit of a genius at math, was a fool's errand for Paul. There is a price to pay for copying homework from one's nerdy twin while in high school. One of the prices was being ushered, somewhat unceremoniously, out of the Chairman of the History/Political Science department's office at Wheeling Jesuit. Fr. Joseph Kennedy did not take kindly to fools and was not persuaded to approve a temporary transfer of major from math to political science solely to try and resuscitate a dismal GPA. Fr. Kennedy moved on and Paul took up political science, a field he then and still does cherish. "Coulda been a contender!" Historiography, International Relations, Epistemology, Logic and maybe Ethics were favorite classes. Kudos to professors Dr. John Wack, Fr. Jim O'Brien and Dr. Rick Bender. It might have been Fr. Laut or Dr. Orr who invited Paul to exit his 8 am literature class with the admonition "not at 8 o'clock in the morning" all because when asked "who can tell me something about Boris Godunov" Paul responded that he was a spy character in a rowboat with Natasha yelling with a heavy Russia accent "stroke! stroke!" Some senses of humor obviously lack compatibility. Or, as his sister and mom often said, "You are too cute by half" and it will someday come back to bite you.

The close relationship between faculty, staff and students during the twins days at WC were without equal. To wit, evenings at Mac's or Moxie's were rarely negative, boorish experiences, and that in no small measure can be attributed to the presence of a number of faculty willing to raise the level of conversation and lower the level of alcohol consumption, a marvelous lasting achievement outside the classroom. There was a cultured look then— coats, ties, dresses, evening meals that included reservations for tables, waiters and waitresses, ice sculptures, theme dinners once a week.

Graduating from Wheeling College and going to graduate school at Duquesne University was made possible for Paul because of excellent professors at Wheeling College and its palpable atmosphere of learning with the intent to serve others while earning a living. His two jobs at WC, dorm Proctor, and Student Dining Hall Manager, were an education in and of themselves. Though in retrospect, while they were necessary to lessen the financial burden on the family they were a distraction from a vigorous study regime.

As graduation neared, a beautiful, extraordinarily gifted woman from the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh caught his attention. While having to bide his time, as she was pursued by any number of upperclassmen, the bonds of marriage became a reality with a courtship conducted largely by mail between Marquette U. and Duquesne U. Then as now, they loved one another and shared the dream that "small is beautiful" and the belief that saving the state, nation and world from manmade pollution will not kill the economy.

In closing, your humble author, Paul (as you may have guessed), must give his dorm roommates their due. Tributes to Tom Vogel, a fellow elder statesman of our freshman class, who refused to wear a dink and later became a star Cardinal rugby scrummer; to the proud Lithuanian, James Alvin Onaitis, senior yearbook editor extraordinaire who put the yearbook's wrap celebration above Fr. McGroarty's rules and regulations, an act that earned him a week restricted to campus; and to the freshman year roommate, Jon Letzkus, who refers to me as "the liberal Democrat" and I to him as a modern day John C. Calhoun or Henry Clay or William Jennings Bryant, all gifted orators. If one is searching for the alpha and omega of humor look no further than Jon. To the three of them, thanks for sharing a wee bit of life and laughter.

Cindy and Paul were influenced by that value driven 60's movement, taking two years to build a cabin in the hills of West by God Virginia. Their idyllic cabin is a fitting home for them to share a meaningful life together (indeed their address is 4401 EDEN Road).

The values packed Liberal Arts education at Wheeling College was a boon every step of the way and continues to be a welcome, INVALUABLE, guide to living humanely as a member of a species whose organizing and civilizing principle is the preservation of SOCIETY itself.

Be well, and care for one another as best you can! LUCEAT LUX VESTRA.

Tina Rodgers Leshner 65'

Internships were not readily available in 1964, but I landed one at The Scranton Times, the evening paper in my hometown, in the summer before my senior year in college. Unlike many internships today, it was a paid summer post. I earned \$50 a week, but the other intern was a male---and he was paid \$80 a week. It bugs me to this day, although I am more incensed that my current employer, William Paterson University, mirrored that unequal pay approach in 1989, when I joined the faculty---and was paid \$8,000 less than a male hired the same year in the Communication Department.

In 1964, I was a student at Wheeling College, now Wheeling Jesuit University, in West Virginia, where I majored in history. My minor was philosophy---not because I chose it, but because all students were mandated to minor in that field. As a junior, I plowed through a five-credit course in metaphysics. Translation: we attended that class every day of the week. At the time, I found the philosophical studies to be somewhat of a waste---but later I realized the value of being taught to think critically and write logically. And, after all, reporters and philosophers have something in common: we both ask questions.

In Fall 1964, I returned to Wheeling for my senior year. In addition to my course load, I debuted as an actor in some play whose name I fail to remember. But it focused on a royal family in Olde England, and I was the queen's maid. I memorized my lines---all eight of them. The small auditorium was packed for both performances, and I figured I was on my way in the world of drama. That was the last play in which I ever appeared. So much for that potential career.

The Jesuit priests tried hard to bring strong academic offerings into our out-of-class work. Each year, the school sponsored the Bellarmine Symposium in which three or four students were selected to speak on issues tied to a particular subject. That fall, the topic was tied to poverty and its effect in a state like West Virginia. Frankly, I was a bit surprised that I was chosen for the event over students who earned better grades than I. Perhaps it was because I had always been at ease in giving class presentations and/or speeches for various groups.

On the evening of the symposium, we were given formal academic robes to wear. The audience included the local Congressman and other elected officials as well as representatives from business, the coal industry and non-profit groups. Even my parents were there---they drove nine hours to hear their daughter deliver what I think was a strong speech. I felt a bit like a faculty member, and thought that perhaps I might pursue that profession. I thought again---forget it; I am heading to journalism school.

I applied to a number of journalism schools. One was Columbia; that program required that applicants be interviewed. Those unable to travel to NYC were assigned interviews with Columbia Journalism School graduates in other areas of the country. I took a bus to Pittsburgh, PA, to meet with a woman who had given up the field years before to raise a family, but her spouse was an editor at a newspaper publication.

Almost immediately, she commented: "Wheeling College? What kind of a school is that? My children go to Smith College." That did it for me---I knew that this woman was not going to recommend me, so I pulled my application from what was considered the nation's finest graduate program in the country.

I was accepted at other schools---Iowa, Syracuse, Ohio State, etc., but chose the Univ. of Missouri, the first school of journalism in America and one that many people believe ranks up there with Columbia.

That semester, I also began writing my thesis---yes, all students had to write theses in their respective majors. In addition, we had to take oral exams in history and in ethics. When I tell this to my current students, they are astounded. But I am not enthused that current education standards fail to live up to the way we learned a half-century ago. Certainly we were better prepared for graduate studies.

As a member of the yearbook staff, I was assigned to do "literary" work. Actually, I was to write all of the copy in that publication---and I did! Every word! We had a lot of laughs as we worked on that project.

In the previous semester, I had been named to Gamma Pi Epsilon, the national honor society for women at Jesuit institutions. I was elected vice president of that organization, but I don't think the post came with any specified duties.

When I read that Mademoiselle magazine was seeking applications for young women to spend a summer working at the publication, I applied. I had to write an essay. One of my friends typed it up and sent it in. I did not earn a spot in the NYC-based program, but I was selected for some honor---as the West Virginia representative or something like that. All I know is that Mademoiselle sent out press releases about me to the Scranton and Wheeling newspapers---and all my friends and relatives were impressed as were the priests at the college. I thought it was funny---but I made sure that my "honor" was added to my resume material.

As I think back to that Fall '64 semester, I always key into the arena of "fashion." What did we wear to classes? **(continued next page)**

Tina Rodgers Leshner 65' (continued from page 5)

Skirts or dresses and heels or nice-looking flats. A big fashion choice at the time was the mohair sweater. I was living in a college-owned house with seven other seniors and, no kidding, the first one up in the morning was the best dressed. We wore each other's clothes, especially one pink mohair sweater that was the property of a classmate. The men in our classes wore jackets, white shirts and ties. The college, and many other schools, required us to be well-dressed.

And my opinion today? I support professional dress for students as I think people act as they dress.

One of my housemates had a car---believe me, that was a rarity in those days. I can recall that we would chip in for gas---and sometimes only \$1 worth. That was enough to get us wherever we were going.

As a history student, I was immersed in studying about the presidential race between Lyndon Johnson and Barry Goldwater. But I could not vote---I was too young by just a few weeks.

I celebrated my 21st birthday in late November 1964. Of course, my friends and I headed to the nearby pub and had a few brews---but that was nothing new as we had been doing that since we were 18. The next day, I headed home for the Thanksgiving break.

By the time Christmas break rolled around in 1964, I had selected my graduate school and had registered for the easiest classes I could take for my final semester. I just wanted to enjoy the final months leading to my college graduation in April 1965.

Memories Then and Now by Mikie Casem '65

Dad's red and white '56 Buick unexpectedly trumpeted our arrival at move in day on campus when it screeched to a stop, and cut loose an ear piercing backfire in the McHugh Hall parking lot. Soon I would meet up with my five Purple Eagle classmates from Gonzaga H.S. in DC- Skinny Bodson, Al Baird, Mal Leubkert, Tom Stanton and Pete Daley---at Wheeling College, the newest and first co-ed Jesuit College.

We were no strangers to the coat & tie thing for the guys, but the 7 p.m. **dorm curfew** was another matter, as was **laundromat 101**---what came first, dirty clothes or the soap? **Red beanies**, awkward small talk and budding romance at the freshmen dink dance. **Skinny's midterm proclamation** that he had located the library with real books and all . . . no one believed him. Waiting your turn in McHugh Hall to call home on the dial phone on the wall. Tablets were of course, paper note pads. Standing in line at mail call in Swint Hall. Burgers 'n shakes to go at the Purple Cow. Tom "Crusher" Gillen pumping iron. . .

Ethics Class and (Father Jim O'Brien, SJ) O.B.'S words of wisdom: the end never justifies the means. . . the call to serve one another seldom occurs at a convenient time. . . Wheeling Creek spring flooding in middle of the night March rainstorm found many WC students wading in raging waist deep water, going from house to house in the pitch dark helping our neighbors escape to safety. Father Laut's English Lit debate: William Shakespeare male or female? . . . Father Joe Kennedy's History Lessons: the best blueprint for the future is our footprints from the past . . . and freedom ultimately comes down to a moral choice: to choose what I **ought**, or choose what I **want**. Hitchhiking home in a snowstorm, Flag football- Lubie going deep to Jay Phillips in the annual Toilet Bowl. Good cheer and cold beer at Moxies. Saturday night Wheeling jam-boree. Quiet moments in the chapel.

Front page photo in Wheeling News Register of 20 foot multi-colored ice cycle which roomie Pete Daley and I tediously "grew" down to the ground from our second floor dorm window. Father William McGroarty appeared out of nowhere and wasn't impressed, "Gentlemen, by 2 o'clock, either the ice cycle's gone, or you're gone." Senior Year blazers . . . One of those new mustangs was just spotted in the Ford showroom on National Rd. President Kennedy's assassination cancelled classes and I headed home for a blind date. After hiding in the trunk of my buddy's car, I popped out and introduced myself to a startled freckled faced brunette named Rita---today, my bride of 50 years, Rita's still startled. **Most useful advice** I took away with me was offered by Fr. Jim O'Brien "Remember always open the door for your boss, and never be afraid to dream BIG, really BIG, just don't do it on company time. Always, always take your relationship with God very seriously, but never take yourself too seriously.

Fifty years ago, Graduation day, **LUCEAT LUX VESTRA** (Let your light shine), words engraved on a class ring. . . My life has been blessed with comforts and afflictions. . . Prayer and laughter, I never leave home without them . . . I count my successes, not in what I have done, but what God has done for me . . . Through the eyes of personal caregivers I have glimpsed the unconditional Love of a Merciful God who never gives up on any of us. . . Please God, continue to "let **your** light shine" through me, and through the hearts of those around me. . . Today, half a century later, **LUCEAT LUX VESTRA**, words engraved in my heart . . .



Planned Giving Fr. William George

I enjoyed meeting some of our alumni over the past two weeks in Florida. We actually have a large alumni population there. During those visits we discussed the University's future and how best to provide for that. Sustainability is something I would like for our alumni to contemplate when thinking of Wheeling Jesuit University. We need your help to be able to continue to financially assist our students, like you were. Planned giving is a great way to do this.

As you begin making your estate plans, please consider including your Wheeling Jesuit family. The best way to insure the sustainability of WJU is for each of our alumni to leave just a little in their wills. Please think and pray about it.

There are many planned gift opportunities available to donors. Planned gifts are usually larger and made during a donor's lifetime, or estate contributions that donors may make through wills, trusts, gift annuities, insurance policies or gift agreements. Most of the planned gift vehicles available can provide cost-saving benefits to you as well as a meaningful gift to Wheeling Jesuit University.

Discuss options with your attorney or estate planner, or if interested, we have WJU alumni attorneys who have volunteered to discuss estate planning options with you.

For additional information, please contact me in the Advancement Office at (304) 243-8141, (800) 888-2586 or advancement@wju.edu.

The web link www.wju.edu/advancement/makeplanned.asp also provides additional information.

John Mensore '60 Community Leader—Generous Wheeling Jesuit Benefactor—World Class Singer

John is a respected leader in West Virginia and in his hometown of New Martinsville. As an attorney and businessman, he contributes to the growth and development of many worthwhile projects in and around the area. He also supports many projects at Wheeling Jesuit, including donations to the new Bishop Schmitt field on campus. In addition to his philanthropic endeavors, John is well known for his beautiful voice and sharing his love of singing. He was declared "Ambassador of Music" by then West Virginian Governor Joe Manchin in recognition of his lengthy singing career.

His favorite songs are those made famous by Perry Como, Dean Martin, Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra. He is the son of musical parents who encouraged his talents at the young age of age 6. He has performed at various venues including local and statewide churches, rotary conferences, Ebert Brothers Concerts, local fairs and celebrations. He has appeared on several television shows and night clubs locally and nationally. He does many of his performances to help raise funds for various organizations including appearances at ArtLink concerts.

Any time you meet John or talk to him on the phone he is sure to sing a song or share one of his famous stories. The class of 1960 is very proud of "Johnnie Joe" and his many achievements.



(L) John with Fred Caruso at dinner during our 50th anniversary celebration.



(R) John during his college days at Wheeling.

A Message from Rev. James Fleming, SJ President WJU

Why Do Students Choose WJU?

The years that students spend pursuing a degree at Wheeling Jesuit University are a springboard to their future. The choices of where and what to learn are critical. This year, WJU had a 5% increase in new student enrollment as more and more students and parents discover what WJU has to offer: rigorous academic program and research opportunities that develop informed, innovative and responsible leaders athletic, cultural and extracurricular activities that mold the future adults opportunities for students to explore their spirituality, whatever their faith faculty and staff who embody the WJU mission and educate students for life, leadership and service with and among others a safe and beautiful campus an affordable education

WJU also is a place where students learn about the rich rewards that come from service. Indeed, service to the community is in our DNA at WJU. It flows naturally from our 450 year history of Jesuit education. Last year our students volunteered 27,000 hours, helping in the poorest neighborhoods on behalf of the most vulnerable individuals. They live what Maya Angelou was referring to when she said, "While I know myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God's creation."



These are just a few reasons why students choose WJU. On the following pages some of our students share their reasons for choosing Wheeling Jesuit and reflect on their choices.

Rev. James Fleming, S.J., Ph.D.
WJU President

2014 - 2015 Academic Year

Student Body—304 new students in the fall of 2014

Hometowns—Students from 32 states and nine countries make up the WJU student body—Three-quarters of the incoming class was from Ohio (102), Pennsylvania (33) and West Virginia (75)

Freshman GPA—Average overall grade point average for incoming freshman class is 3.4

5 percent increase in new students over last year

Newest Facility

On Oct. 17th, 2014 WJU officially dedicated the newly finished Bishop Schmitt field--a success made possible by generous donors who contributed more than \$2 million for much needed improvements to our main performance field and track.



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



50 Year Club

50 Year Club Home

Newsletters
Class Gift
50 Year Club Clothing
Historical Documents
Annual Lecture
Senior Ambassadors
Alumni Scholar
Yearbooks

Reunions

Class of 1960
Class of 1961
Class of 1962
Class of 1963
Class of 1964

50 Year Club



graduating class.

Al Reed created the idea for the Club 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 Reed 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.

The Club is an adjunct organization of the Alumni Council. Its functions include honoring the 50 year graduates, conducting an annual lecture during the 50 year reunion, creating and assisting with the senior ambassador program, the Alumni Scholar in Residence program, assisting 50 year classes with planning their reunion and encouraging a class gift from each

The Club conducts a yearly ceremony at the time of the reunion to honor the 50 year graduates. The President of the University provides certificates to each member of the class. Explore the links to the left to read recent newsletters and see great memories of recent reunions. 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 an alumni member about a topic of general interest. The 2011 topic was "what's new about educational programs at WJU" and "Jesuit values at WJU - are they still here?" The topic for 2012 was "Value of a liberal arts education - is it important." The 2013 topic was "WJU - Mission, Identity, and Service." The 2014 topic was "Catholic Social Thought."

Being a senior ambassador is an honor and a responsibility. Ambassadors volunteer to aid the university with fundraising, enrollment, and student mentoring.

The Alumni Scholar in Residence is a visiting professor program where an alumnus/a spends a week on campus teaching classes in his/her discipline. Several newsletters have been published. These newsletters contain some excellent stories from alumni about their time at WJU (Wheeling College). Some are serious and many contain some very humorous memories. Take a look at the [newsletters](#) to bring back many of these memories.

Assisting the 50 year class with their reunion and planning of their class gift is available if desired by the reunion planning committee.



Email: alumni@wju.edu

Phone: 1-304-243-2297

50 Year Club

The following individuals were elected as Club officers and board members to serve June 2013-June 2015. President-Dan Haller '61, 1st Vice President-Al Reed '60, 2nd Vice President-Don Mercer '60, Secretary-Carolyn Cannon '60, Past President-Ed Shahady '60, Members at Large - Barbara Creamer Yeager '59, John Eagan McAteer '61, Fr. John DiBacco '62, Terri Haid '63.

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.



Jim Dissen '63 receiving his 50 Year Club diploma from President Rick Beyer

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 63. 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. In November of 2012 the ambassadors from the first 10 classes contacted classmates and were able to obtain \$70,000 in pledges and donations. The goal for 2013-2014 in November is \$100, 000. At the time of this publication \$156,000 was raised. The deadline is March 29th in time for an announcement at the Gaudiosa celebration.

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.** Alumni Scholars as follows: Ed Shahady, M.D. '60 - fall of 2011, Joan Davison Ph.D. '78 - fall of 2012, Dick Riley, Ph.D. '84 - fall of 2013 and Jim Smith, Esq. '64 - fall of 2014. 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 eshahady@att.net.