



# 50 Year Club Newsletter

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Volume 6 Issue 2 June 2015

## Class of 1965 "Septimi" 50th Reunion

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The Class of 1965 reunion committee and the Office of Alumni Relations has planned a great reunion June 19-21. Committee members include Tina Rodgers Leshner, Peggy Hennessy, Paul and Cindy Carr Rank, Mikie Casem, Lu Greer Maloney, Jon Letzkus, Eileen Meagher Cumiskey, Peggy Daley, Bertie Ryan Synowiec and Larry Meagher.

Friday events begin at 5 pm with the conferring of 50 Year Club diplomas to members of the Class of 1965. Moderators for the 50 Year Club program are Lu Greer Maloney and Tom Vogel. Following the program is the President's reception and the 50 Year Club dinner. All members of the 50 Year Club are invited.

After dinner, the Septimi class will gather to share stories and pictures provided by classmates, sing some old favorites, and, if the legs hold up, perhaps enjoy some dancing. Bertie Ryan, Marilyn Meagher and others have provided some great photos of the class in action - from their Wheeling College days. Al Azzaro has a great collection of photos from most of the reunions, right up through the 45th in 2010. Bob and Pat O'Kane have provided guitar and voices to ALL of our reunions, and promise not to let the class down for this big one; and the class has no shortage of singers (we did not say "great voices"), who will surely jump in and get things going.

The 50 Year Club discussion is set for Saturday morning. Class photos will be taken at lunch, followed by members of the class of 1965 gathering to highlight three of their published authors—Mikie Casem, Tina Rodgers Leshner and Bertie Ryan Synowiec. They will talk about their books, the process and story behind them, and share other "author insights" with their classmates. On Saturday evening, Cindy Carr Rank will be inducted into the hall of honor at the Awards dinner.

## Class of 1960 to Celebrate Their 55th Anniversary and Perform Gambol Revisited

After the 50 Year Club dinner, guests will be treated to what a bunch of 76 plus year olds can remember about the **GAMBOL from 55 years ago**.

There will be a chorus line composed of Carolyn Cannon (leader and motivator), Tulane Mensore, Connie Megna Weaver, Barry Kerrane, Bob Maybury, Ed Dennison, Syd Sonneborn, and Fred Caruso. They will entertain us with "The Night They Invented Champagne", "Ballin' the Jack", "Carolina in the Morning" and "Those Were the Days". The grand finale will be the original Wheeling College Alma Mater written by Father Gannon.



*John Mensore and Ed Shahady*

Next will be Fred Caruso singing "Day-O", John Mensore performing four great songs, Don Mercer performing a clarinet medley of "Beatles Songs", and Ed Shahady will be the MC, and bring "Ducknik" back to the stage.

The 50 Year Club discussion is set for Saturday morning and in the evening classmates will celebrate the induction of John Mensore and Don Mercer into the Hall of Honor.

### Fourth Annual 50 Year Club Lecture and Discussion

**Date:** Saturday, June 20

**Time:** 10:30 am

**Location:** CET Music Conservatory

**Title:** The Value of a Liberal Arts Education at WJU

**Moderator** - Dan Haller '61

**Discussants** - Larry Meagher '65, Cindy Carr Rank '65 and Ed Shahady '60

## Message from University President Father James Fleming

On behalf of the University Community, I am happy to welcome the 50 Year Club members back to campus – especially the classes of 1960 and 1965. I am grateful to report that the generosity of the Senior Ambassadors - who have lived up to their reputation - is helping us to move to our *Drive 365 Annual Appeal* goal of one million dollars. To date, through the enthusiastic encouragement and hard work of the Senior Ambassadors, we have reached 87% of our Senior Ambassador group goal of \$365,000 (41% giving rate) With a few weeks to go, we continue to cheer you on. You are setting the pace for all Alumni giving at Wheeling Jesuit University. Thus far this year, we have a 12% alumni giving participation rate. We would like to hit 14% by July 1<sup>st</sup>. We can do it, and we need your continued help.

St. Ignatius would be quite proud of our 50 Year Club members. Like you, he was a dream-er. He was a do-er too, but a dreamer first. The two: dreaming and doing – have a strong relationship with each other. As William Butler Yeats said, “In dreams are born responsibilities”. When I meet alumni from Wheeling Jesuit University, I’m often impressed that they are both: dreamers and doers. WJU continues to answer the world’s call for dreamers.



**Fr. Fleming at graduation**

I hope your years at Wheeling Jesuit were a time of dreaming and learning how to dream. College is a time of special readiness for human expansion and adventure. Humanity develops at the boundary with otherness and God is always revising our boundaries outward. (Steere, 1982)

True openness to others begins with a gracious self-forgetting so that we can imagine the experience of another – all our sisters and brothers. By drawing upon our own wealth of experience and blending it with the particular features of another’s experience, it is possible to see through another’s eyes, to feel through another’s heart, to know something of another’s understanding. I believe it nourishes our basic human dream to know and to be known, to love and to be loved.

One of the more significant features of an education at Wheeling Jesuit is the opportunity to take the perspective of another and to be compelled, thereby, to re-compose our own perspective. Through constructive encounters with otherness and the true exchange of ideas, we are given the chance to dream...and I hope you dream big!

I hope that in this season of Alumni celebrations, you will take a moment to consider the great teachers you’ve had, the impressive people you’ve met, the friends you’ve made. These good people helped direct you and drive you to fulfill the promise of the future. As a student you struggled to think critically about yourself and about your world as these mentors gave you crucial forms of recognition, support, and challenge. Whatever the immediate challenge or subject matter, these good mentors showed you that all knowledge has a moral dimension, and that learning what matters is ultimately a spiritual, transforming activity.

As Sharon Daloz Parks has written, “mentors convey inspiration for the long haul”. You will remember being inspired by them, by their teaching styles, and by your own student activism - in worship and at play. WJU is a place with a “steadfast hope that human structures can be made more just, more humane, more open to the transcendent possibilities of the human spirit - in all its potential”. (Parks, 2000) We say: “OK, and what if...”

This year’s graduation season brought us nearly 400 new WJU alums – from 15 states and 3 countries. They join the ranks of other recent graduates who are in the workforce and pursuing graduate degrees. We know that 95% of the WJU graduates from both 2013 and 2014 report that they are in jobs or in graduate programs for which they needed their Wheeling Jesuit University degree. We are proud that *US News and World Report Best Colleges* ranks WJU #6 in the south and #1 in West Virginia.

## Class of 1965 (Septimi) Memories

### *Larry Meagher '65*

As Septimi classmates reflect on the years of their Wheeling experience, it is fair to state that those years reflect a watershed era for them, the college, the country and the world. Rumbblings of the still somewhat distant but approaching tumult of the later '60's were subtly present, though not yet fully perceived.

During our time at Wheeling, Septimi members lived through historic events that marked the era for generations to come, indeed – perhaps - forever. The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 saw the cold war world literally reach the brink of – perhaps nuclear - War. It hit home, directly at WC, as students, sons and daughters of government or military personnel were called home – forthwith - for security purposes. Some few, in fact, suffered personal crises from the stress induced by the event.

News of Sputnik and the ensuing and rapid evolution of the “space race”, was juxtaposed by America's response, and President Kennedy's historic and unprecedented challenge to the nation - then, all but inconceivable – to put a man on the moon within 10 years.

The March on Washington, and Martin Luther King's iconic speech at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial; the establishment of the Peace Corps which recruited on campus, and successfully enlisted some of our “best and brightest” classmates (Ann Haas, Gerry Dodd, Pat and Bob O'Kane, Joannie Strickler), were among the “other” events that marked our years. Add to these the 1964 New York World's Fair, ultimately, a “non-event”; barely recalled today by all but a few, including several Septimi's who made and enjoyed visits to the Fair.

Others, more memorable, and less warmly recalled were the race riots of that same year (L.A., Philadelphia, NYC, among others); and the assassination of Malcolm X. And, most devastatingly, during the previous fall, November, 22, 1963, the event in Dallas which marked one of the darkest days in the country's history - one that members of Septimi – the entire college community, and the country, recall as vividly today as if it were yesterday.

Septimi's four years at Wheeling were marked by the birth of still nascent but real changes which were to shake the country and the world by its heels just a few short years later. We came in with the Three Tops and the Lettermen, migrated towards Roy Orbison, the Rolling Stones and the Beatles, and left with Dylan, Joplin, and Jimi Hendrix. The latter were still perhaps on the horizon, not yet fully established, but they and their messages were not unknown. Several class members traveled to Pittsburgh for a Bob Dylan concert near the end of

those earlier musical 'markers', to the harder, in your face world of the coming musical icons, Septimi members enthusiastically adopted the challenges offered by the clear evidence of an evolving society, and threw ourselves into the growing discussion and debate.

The 20th Century Forum, “SIU (Students for Intercultural Understanding), and other formal and informal groups and organizations took up the issues of race, democracy, poverty and justice, and made them a part of our daily dialogue and concern. The College, its faculty – Jesuits and lay members, did their part, and then some, as they challenged us and the whole student body toward lives of careful examination and exploration.

In the end, members of this unique group of students, of Septimi, return – after 50 years of life experience, to enjoy and savor the memories of four years together, on a journey of preparation for the real journey. 152 students formed the class as it gathered for the first time in August of 1961. Some fell by the wayside, as they left WC for other opportunities; others joined along the way. At graduation, 114 received their degrees. 28 classmates have are no longer with us, and 13 are lost from the University's records. Of the remaining, 33 Septimi's will reunite again, on the same campus, to re-visit, to relive, to re-love those days of August, '61 through May '65, breathing the rarified air that still emanates from the small cornfield along the big curve of Wheeling Creek, tucked behind the modest middle American homes that to this day line Washington Ave. Pleasanton neighborhood of Wheeling, WV.



**Larry and Marilyn Mahler Meagher**

## **Class of 1965 Memories—continued**

### **Peggy Hennessy:**

During the summer of 1962, my mom and dad threw the 5 kids in the car, and headed to DC for summer vacation. While there, I called my freshman classmate/boyfriend to say hi and let him know we were in town. He wanted to get together, but I was terrified for my parents to find out I was “dating,” so I said I couldn’t possibly! In the fall, when we got back to school, I got the cold shoulder. End of that relationship.

It took him until our 20th class reunion to realize his mistake. RIP JJB.

### **Tina Rodgers Leshar:**

As we left for Christmas break during freshman year, it was snowing. I joined a group of classmates to head to the Wheeling Airport. We arrived as the announcement was made that commercial flights were canceled. But that proved no problem for me, and my good friend Mary Anne Fidati (Eggleston). Waiting for us was a small jet from the company owned by Mary Anne’s grandfather. As we flew into the air, I could see other collegians shaking their heads and wishing they also lived in Scranton so they could join us on the flight!



**Barbara Joseph, Ed Buckley,  
Tina Rodgers Leshar**

### **Larry Meagher:**

The DC-3 Lake Central Airlines flight set down at Wheeling on an August 1962 afternoon; it was the same model craft that had transported our family on a 24- hour journey from Newark, NJ to Mexico City in mid-1945.

I was about to begin a new journey.

After collecting my luggage, having watched as the plane's tail wheel ran over my duffel bag, I was directed to the taxi “line.” The same agent appeared, locked up the terminal, doffed his City Taxi hat, and off we headed for Wheeling College.

As we pulled away, he asked, “you coming in from Philly? I figured so; your sister's been calling for a couple days, asking if her brother was on the flight.”

### **Mike Casem:**

After Gonzaga H.S. in DC, carrying on the Jesuit tradition at Wheeling College, this time with girls, got my attention. Three hours of homework, no sweat, dorm curfew at 10, another story. Figuring out the laundry mat . . . Where’s mom? . . . Red beanies at the Freshman Dink Dance . . . Standing in line at Swint Hall for mail call . . . The “Toilet Bowl” . . . The Lettermen concert in the gym . . . 3 Roomies, RIP: Ralph McDaniel and his collection of live snakes, Tom “Crusher” Gillen pumping iron, and Pete Daley: “Follow my lead, Casem.” . . . ’64 Mustang, the hot new ride! Miracles *do* happen: May 1965 . . . Mikie “Mo Po” Casem graduates with Septimi Classmates!

## **Class of 1965 Memories—continued**

### **Paul Rank:**

24 Hrs...of Philosophy???".....24 Hrs...of Theology???"Who Woulda Think it??" A liberal Arts Jesuit co-ed education with minors in Philosophy and Theology, classes in Logic, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Ethics, various Theology courses, survey courses in History, English, Speech and Science. Back then, many were required; today, they are more valuable than ever as we are asked to navigate the ever-present spin zones of the news, of entertainment and even of issues surrounding sports.

Today, TRUTH, even when it is revered and desired, is dressed up, spun, denied, stood on

its head and is elusive without well-honed CRITICAL THINKING. The goal of a Jesuit Education is to bring about and enhance such abilities. Looking back through the haze of fun and social warmth, the values that endure and enable us to evaluate a situation or product and make reasonably good decisions, lie most those above-mentioned Liberal Arts classes. "Who Woulda Think it"?



**Jim & Frankie Onaitis, Paul & Cindy Rank**

### **Tom Vogel:**

My first college experience after high school was at the young age of 17. The University of Pittsburgh was a large impersonal place. One class had 350 in a chemistry lecture hall. I hated it. By the next semester I had enlisted in the Navy and eventually became an aviation electrician attached to a squadron. It was a maturing experience but not for my future. Pilots in training were all college grads. They urged me, "Vogel, get out of here and go to college."

A friend from home had chosen to attend this new small Jesuit college outside of Pittsburgh. I corresponded with her regularly and was intrigued by the manner in which she described the people and the experience. I spent lonely Navy time reading and asked her to provide a suggested list of books. Upon my release from service, I pursued enrolling sight unseen at this newest Jesuit adventure. My life changed forever.

### **Lu Greer Maloney:**

Snow had been falling for several hours as dinner was wrapping up in Swint. Mysteriously, cafeteria trays appeared outside. They were quickly pressed into service as sleds for the high-spirited crowd taking advantage of the slick roadway from the top of the hill to the entrance of Sara Tracy. Somehow one of these now precious trays fell into my hands. On my final run, spectators started yelling "Get Off" and the revelers began jumping off their makeshift sleds and disappearing into the night. There was a car with its lights on sitting in the circle outside the dorm. As I got closer to it, I realized this was no ordinary car, but a very familiar station wagon...one that, lovingly we learned in later years, patrolled campus night and day. However, at this time, as Fr. William McGroarty emerged, fear was instilled in all of us. However, there were no sanctions; he merely requested immediate return of the cafeteria property. Done with dispatch.

### **Peggy Daley**

Dick Fitzgerald '63, my husband, said "you made a lifetime of friends at Wheeling College." In my years at Wheeling College, the qualities I sought in friends began to coalesce. Laughter, wit, intellectual curiosity, concern, and the desire for social justice drew me to people. The Jesuits encouraged me to recognize my self-worth and grow spiritually. Fr. John Coll, Fr. Jim Muldowney, Fr. Jim O'Brien, and Fr. John Schneider were especially influential. We became close. Instructors and Jesuits nurtured a lifelong thirst for knowledge. Dr. Rick Bender challenged me to express my opinions in classes where men were the majority. Dr. John Wack's classes were a revelation in how history can enrich one's life. He became mentor, advisor, in loco parentis, cashier at times, and a lifelong friend. Those closest to me became a new family. Spouses, and individuals whose stay at Wheeling was too brief to know well, were included after graduation.

## **More Memories from Class of 65**

### **Kathy McIntire Adams**

Freshman year: JFK was in Wheeling for some political thing and was making an appearance at a stadium in town. A group of us went to see him; I don't know how we got there, but we got back to school very late in the back of a pickup truck driven by a very sympathetic man. Mrs. Kah (housemother) was understanding.

### **Mary Dwyer Schmit**

Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start. ( From Sound of Music : Do, Re,Mi).

It was July of my junior year of high school and we had been visiting colleges in Indiana and Ohio. And now we were in Wheeling, West Virginia. It was a very hot, steamy day. We pulled onto the WC campus. Right away, we met a friendly priest who welcomed us and said he would show us around. Then after a very thorough walking tour we began to say our thank yous and good-byes. My dad turned to our charming guide and said: "Oh, by the way Father, what do you do around here?" And he said, "I 'm the President!!" I'll never... ever...forget this moment. And that's how I met Father William Troy!!



**Eileen Meagher  
Cumiskey, Judy  
Reisert Lang,  
Dr John Wack,  
Marilyn Mahler  
Meagher**

### **Beanie Harris Moran**

**Scene 1:** Setting: Girls' Room, 2nd floor, Donahue Hall

Time: Senior year, one day before the big Easter Egg Hunt (Fun, Candy, Prizes, \$\$\$ for finder of the Golden Egg!!!)

Action: Enter 2 senior dayhops. #1 holds carton of 1 dozen fresh eggs. #2 uncaps a bottle of gilt paint. Both giggle uncontrollably as they brush the gilt over all 12 eggs.

**Scene 2:** Setting: Student Cafeteria

Time: 1 hour later Dayhops hand over brown paper bag containing aforementioned carton now holding 12 perfectly dry, perfectly gold, perfectly raw eggs to unidentified freshman. Freshman promises to hide eggs at various places on campus early next morning. Three conspirators exchange promises of confidentiality.

**Scene 3:** There is no scene 3. Didn't I mention these were dayhops? They missed a lot of the fun that went on campus. But we can only imagine!! Right, Nancy?

### **Mary Anne Fidati Eggleston**

Just weeks into freshman year, I was at Moxie's one night and my side started hurting. Friends walked me back to the dorm; I was still in pain a few hours later. The housemother seemed reluctant to seek assistance until she got an earful from Tina Rodgers, who was insistent that I needed help. So, dressed in a robe and big, fluffy slippers, I walked out of Sara Tracy at 2 a.m. and into an ambulance. First thing I saw at Wheeling Hospital was a crumbling ceiling; next thing was the operating room for an appendectomy. Some start to college...

## Class of 1965 Memories—continued

### Lu Greer Maloney

Vicky DiPiero—Among the eager new students on campus in 1961 was a pretty young girl from Huntington, WVa. She was the third daughter her parents had sent to Wheeling. She was thrilled to be with her beloved sisters, Andrea and Dianne, who were both held in high regard on campus. Their presence and their loving family upbringing guaranteed a warm welcome for Vicky. She was a great fit academically and socially. In fact, in the first few weeks of freshman year, the person at the desk notifying people on the PA that their dates were waiting often called for Vicky twice in the same evening. Vicky brought her combination bubbly-industrious personality to bear as an English major, singer in the glee club, sodalist, and an annual member of the Gambol chorus. When her basketball playing brother Jimmy arrived, Vicky carved out time to attend home games to cheer him on...her infectious enthusiasm caught by all nearby. In a bit of a twist, the music that Vicky chose to listen to while cleaning her room for dorm check was opera. Vicky was multifaceted but always kind, outgoing, fun loving, generous, supportive, and loyal. She was taken much too soon, but not before leaving three beautiful children. It was a privilege to know her as a friend.

A Momentous dorm dance weekend November 6, 1964—at least for me. When my date finally confirmed that his Georgetown schedule would allow him to drive up in time for the dorm dance, I went to Stone and Thomas to buy a dress for the occasion. I found a black velvet with white lace trim *ala* then in fashion as a result of the movie *Tom Jones*. The hem needed adjusting but sweet Janie Mista, a dayhop who also worked at Stone's, kindly offered to bring it to campus when it was ready; and she did. The weekend was off to a good start and we enjoyed the evening at Oglebay.

The next day Notre Dame was playing at Pitt and my Dad purchased us tickets. Quite a few from campus were planning to attend. In fact several of the priests were going and they had room in the station wagon. (The Jesuits had this great system of renting a car and leaving it at the house for the other priests' use saving the rental mileage, and taking the house station wagon on the road, generously taking students with them. Many ski trips to 7 Springs, etc. were taken in that vehicle.) So our transportation issue was pleasantly solved. We were delighted to be going, but adding to that excitement was the fact that Joe, the "little" brother of our classmate, Al Azzaro, was on the ND team. Though Joe had not yet played in a game, he had been told to dress for this game in his home town. Well, you can guess who kicked the winning field goal! As I was jumping up and down in celebration, my date proposed. He later said he knew I would be in a good mood. Michael and I will be celebrating our 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August.



### The Spirit of Septimi

My hair is thin, my eyesight's poor.  
These hearing aids drive me insane.  
I can't stand or sit for too long.  
Where the hell did I put my cane?

I left with you in '65  
To set the whole world on its ear.  
That was the big plan anyway  
'Til Life knocked me flat on my rear.

In His Mercy God raised me up  
To help others struggling to smile.  
It took all I had to get here.  
Seeing you made it all worthwhile.

50 years, where did they all go?  
Since our days at WC.  
I'm sorry. What's your name again?  
Wait. Hold that thought . . . I gotta pee!

Mikie Casem

## Father James Muldowney by Judy Reisert Lang '65

I write this on a beautiful, sunny day and my mind is racing back through time to a place where so much of who I am today began. That place is Wheeling Jesuit University, previously known as Wheeling College, which I attended from 1961 through 1965.

At the time of my formal acceptance Wheeling College was not an accredited institution. However, neither I nor my parents was concerned. We figured if the Jesuits were running the place sooner or later accreditation would be received.

The initial step for a college attempting to receive accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools was to present a "Self Study" which was to be an accurate picture of all facets of life at the college. Fr. James F. Muldowney, former Academic Dean and Chair of the Sociology Dept, was author/editor of the 150 page scholarly self study which eventually resulted in the college's receiving accreditation in the minimal amount of time.

The Self Study was begun in September, 1960 and full accreditation was received March 29, 1962. Consequently, the college attained increased prestige and increased ability to attract students. For this reason I believe Father JFM, as we called him, should be placed among the top 50 most significant people in the history of Wheeling Jesuit University.

On a personal note, anyone who had Fr. Muldowney as a professor can well remember his keen intellect and store of knowledge. He was the internet before it was invented! No topic was beyond his scope of knowledge. Learning was his obsession which he uniquely combined with humor and wit. And how he tried to instill that same love of learning in his students! In class Father would challenge us to stretch our minds and think of the impossible.

His favorite comment was "Miss (or Mr.) from your vast knowledge of (a certain topic) tell me all about (that topic)." Of course, the chosen student fumbled and confessed to momentary ignorance. By the next class you can bet that the student had fully explored the topic and could recite chapter and verse.

"Read the newspaper." "Aim for the moon." were some of Father's daily mantras. "Push yourself. Excel. Dare to be different in your life." What a motivator he was . . . he lived what he said, stretching himself to full physical limits. When he became Academic Dean he continued to teach sociology and Chair that department. Wearing two hats required discipline and self sacrifice. Many were the nights I remember seeing the lights on in the Dean's office well after midnight.

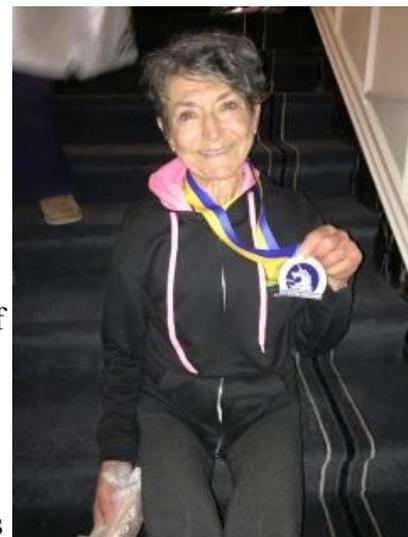
Father still managed to find time to talk with his students and as though it were yesterday I can see him standing in the lobby of Swint Hall in his cassock and beret saying "Hiya" in his Philadelphia native accent.

Father's early and untimely death on April 8, 1964 shocked the college community. The years have not dimmed my admiration for this wonderful man, Jesuit, scholar and, for many of us, the best friend we ever had.

## Dorothy Bardin '61 "Marathon Lady"

We are in awe of **Dorothy Bardin**, who finished first in her age group at the New Jersey Marathon on April 27, 2014, and qualified for Boston marathon for the third time. If you ever think it's too late—or you're too old—to achieve your goals, read Dorothy's story. She is an inspiration and proof that hard work, dedication and a positive attitude pay off! Dorothy says this was her ninth full marathon. "It was somewhat special for me, too, in that my very first marathon was the NJ Marathon with Team In Training (TNT) in 2006. Team In Training, is the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's major source of fundraising. After eighteen weeks of solid group training, with some of the most wonderful people I've ever met, I ran my first marathon".

"I cherish the memories of that first marathon and my wonderful experience with TNT. I've qualified for Boston three times. The first was in San Diego in 2010, which I trained for and ran with TNT. Needless to say, I was quite thrilled and very excited about going to Boston. However, six weeks before the race in April, I sustained a stress fracture in my heel. No deferrals allowed, not even medical, so I had to re-qualify before mid-September when the two-week registration period for Boston was scheduled. I ran the Boston Marathon April 2015 to celebrate my 75th birthday".



## Alumni Scholar in Residence for 2015-Christina Richey '04

Dr. Christina R. Richey is the fifth alumnus to be chosen as the 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.**

More information about the program on page 12. She is a Senior Scientist at Smart Data Solutions, LLC, working for the Science Mission Directorate (SMD) at NASA Headquarters. She received her undergraduate degree in Physics at Wheeling Jesuit University in 2004. She completed her Masters (2007) and PhD (2011) in Physics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where she did laboratory investigations related to both the icy moons of the outer solar system and the interstellar medium.



**Dr. Christina Richey**

She joined Goddard Space Flight Center's Astrophysics Science Division (GSFC ASD) as a NASA Postdoctoral Program Fellow in 2011, where she studied the optical properties of dust grain analogs to better understand early stellar formation. She was also a participant of the NASA-Nordic Summer School and spent part of 2012 in Iceland, studying water, ice, and the origin of life in the Universe.

She has published her work in scientific journals (including *The Astrophysical Journal*) and has presented her research throughout the United States, as well as at several international conferences. In addition to her scientific activities, Dr. Richey has held several leadership positions and has actively engaged in education and public outreach opportunities.

Dr. Richey was previously a member of the Division for Planetary Science's Federal Relations Subcommittee, and a sitting member of the Women in Astrophysics at Goddard Roundtable Panel. She was President of the NASA Goddard Association of Postdoctoral Scholars and was Vice-President and a Member of the Board of Directors for the Scientists and Engineers for America UAB Chapter. She has represented GSFC's Astrophysics Science Division in several educational outreach activities, including being a guest scientist at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the USA Science and Engineering Festival, the B&A Trail's Planet Walk, and the Maryland Science Center. The outreach opportunity she is most proud of was a 2-day event hosted in her hometown, East Liverpool, Ohio, where she brought educational outreach activities to Westgate School in order to "bring NASA home."

She followed this up by giving the commencement speech at the 2012 East Liverpool High School graduation ceremonies. Her outreach work continued as a guest blogger for the GSFC ASD NASA blue shift blog. In her spare time, she is an avid jogger and an animal lover, and has fundraised money for charities working with animals (such as WWF and Best Friends Animal Sanctuary), as well as groups that provide funding for early detection methods to treat ovarian cancer (including Ovarian Cycle, the Norma Livingston foundation, the Laura Crandal Brown Foundation, and the Birmingham Bombshells). She also participated in several outreach efforts in the greater Birmingham area, including development projects in lower-class communities with the Junior League of Birmingham, and disaster relief efforts with Helping Hands after the 2011 tornado outbreak. Dr. Richey was awarded the 2011 Outstanding Service to the Department and Community Award from the UAB Department of Physics.

In 2013, she joined Smart Data Solutions, LLC, that is located at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, where she works supporting the SMD. Dr. Richey is the Deputy Science Advisor for SMD, where she compiles, and distributes information about the R&A awards from the SMD Divisions, and focuses on direct communication with the greater communities working directly with the SMD. Additionally, she is the Deputy Program Scientist in the Planetary Science Division (PSD) for the OSIRIS-REx Mission (the Origins Spectral Interpretation Resource Identification Security- Regolith Mission). OSIRIS-REx is scheduled for launch in 2016 and will travel to a near-Earth Asteroid, called Bennu and bring back a returned sample to Earth for study. The mission will help scientists investigate how planets formed and how life began, as well as improve our understanding of asteroids that could impact Earth. As a Cross-Divisional Discipline Scientists, Dr. Richey is either the lead or secondary Discipline Scientist for the Cassini Data Analysis Program, the Discovery Data Analysis Program, the Emerging Worlds Program (PSD), the Cross-Divisional Exoplanets Research Program, and the Laboratory Astrophysics portion of the Astrophysics Research and Analysis Program (Astrophysics Division).

## DRIVE 365

Drive 365 is the Annual Fund Drive for Wheeling Jesuit University. The giving period is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The “365” represents the goal of \$365,000 set by the 50 Year Club Senior Ambassadors from the classes of 1959-1968. The table below indicates how well each class has done with fund raising. The giving percentage for these classes is 41%, with the Class of 1960 an at 87% giving rate. The amount raised as of June 8, 2015 was \$319,621, with the class of 1964 raising \$75,375. Congratulations to these classes. **We have until June 30, 2015 to reach the goal. Please help our Wheeling Jesuit students—If you have not yet given, or if you have and can give more, please do so. There are several ways to give. Options for giving are listed below**

**Senior Ambassador Update:  
June 8, 2015**

| Class | Amount raised    | Number of donors | Living Solicitable Alumni | Class Giving % | Avg. Gift      |
|-------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1959  | \$11,970         | 16               | 30                        | 53%            | \$748          |
| 1960  | \$49,940         | 34               | 39                        | 87%            | \$1,469        |
| 1961  | \$47,635         | 29               | 61                        | 48%            | \$1,643        |
| 1962  | \$15,334         | 20               | 56                        | 36%            | \$767          |
| 1963  | \$25,135         | 27               | 76                        | 36%            | \$931          |
| 1964  | \$75,375         | 32               | 84                        | 38%            | \$2,355        |
| 1965  | \$22,413         | 37               | 88                        | 42%            | \$606          |
| 1966  | \$14,735         | 35               | 90                        | 39%            | \$421          |
| 1967  | \$25,330         | 33               | 87                        | 38%            | \$768          |
| 1968  | \$31,754         | 41               | 124                       | 33%            | \$774          |
|       | <b>\$319,621</b> | <b>304</b>       | <b>735</b>                | <b>41%</b>     | <b>\$1,051</b> |

Mail a check or cash to: Wheeling Jesuit University  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
316 Washington Ave.  
Wheeling, WV 26003

**Recurring Gifts:** To set up a weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual donation, please access the online giving form at: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/wju/>

**Mobile/Smart Phone Giving :** Text **DRIVE365** to **50155** and follow the instructions to make a donation on the go.

**By Phone:** Please contact Janet Nolan in the Advancement Office at 800-888-2586 and she can take your credit card information over the phone.

**Planned Giving** To learn more about Bequests, Life Insurance, and Charitable Remainder Trusts, please contact Fr. Bill George at 304-243-8144 or [wgeorge@wju.edu](mailto:wgeorge@wju.edu).

**Pat Gannon '72 Alumni Council President offers this insight.**

Our alumni participation in annual giving is a critical factor in WJU's rankings. Charitable and corporate foundations look at the level of support from those who know the university best—its alumni- when evaluating colleges and universities' for funding. The greater our alumni participation, the more likely we are to be viewed in a favorable light.

**DRIVE 365 has two goals: to raise money and to raise the level of alumni participation—both are critical.**

Every gift, no matter the size, helps us make a significant impact on Wheeling Jesuit and its ability to continue to provide its students with an exceptional learning experience, like the one we received.

You can make your gift in honor of an alumnus/a, who made an impact on your life, or who may not be 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](mailto:nmull@wju.edu).

50 Year Club Web Site created. Go to [www.wju.edu/alumni/50yearclub](http://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



planning their reunion and encouraging a class gift from each graduating class.

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.

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



Email: [alumni@wju.edu](mailto:alumni@wju.edu)

Phone: 1-304-243-2297

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50 Year Club Web Site created. Go to [www.wju.edu/alumni/50yearclub](http://www.wju.edu/alumni/50yearclub)

## 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 Grammer Haid '63., and Geno Julian '64.

**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, 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 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 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. Drive 365 is the year long (July 2014 through June 2015) for the senior Ambassadors to raise \$365,000. The ambassadors from the first 10 classes contacted classmates and in late May the ambassadors have raised \$311,000. We hope to reach the goal of \$365,000 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.** The initial scholar was Ed Shahady, M.D. '60, and he was on campus in the fall of 2011. Joan Davison Ph.D. '78, was the second scholar on campus in the fall of 2012. Dick Riley, Ph.D. '84 was the third scholar on campus in the fall of 2013. The honorable James Smith 64' was the fourth scholar on campus in the fall of 2014. Christina Richey Ph.D '04 is 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 [eshahady@att.net](mailto:eshahady@att.net).



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