



# 50 Year Club Newsletter

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## Class of 1967 Celebrates 50th Anniversary

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The class will gather in Troy Theater Swint Hall at 5 PM on Friday June 23rd to receive their 50 Year Club diplomas. President Debra Townsley will address the class and give the diplomas to the new 50 Year Club members. Moderators for the ceremony are Bud Doyle and Ginny Scheil Scott from the Class of 67. Following the ceremony, the President will host a reception for all members of the 50 Year Club. At 6:30 PM, the 50 Year Club dinner will be held in the Benedum Room.

After the 50 Year Club Dinner, members of the Class of 1967 will remain in the Benedum Room for some fun activities planned by the reunion committee. Jane Rohner Morgan reports that when the committee learned that they would have the whole Friday evening to reminisce they started getting some ideas together. A quiz about our childhoods? NO. How about rotating from table to table, like "Speed Dating"? NO. A discussion about our medical histories? A resounding NO. All we really wanted to do was remember the good ol' days and catch up

with old friends. We thought it would be good to have a few major life questions like, "Where have you lived?", answered ahead of time so we could start talking about the details right away. Thus the questionnaire we sent out earlier. Hope you've all filled it in and sent it back. The results of the questionnaire will be handed out in a brochure during the evening or sent out electronically, if you can't be at the reunion.

From 1963 to 1967, the favorite hangout for many of us was Moxie's, of course. Why not recreate Moxie's as best we could? So that's what we'll do. For a couple of hours on Friday night after the 50 Year Club Ceremony we'll have some beer (do they still brew 3.2 Iron City?) and some "good" music – remember Louie, Louie? The only thing missing will be the heavy fog of cigarette smoke! Be sure to stick around and get into the groove. Jane, with the help of her daughter, recreated several hours of good listening music from the 60's. There also will be an opportunity to honor deceased classmates, a memorial display will be created with their pictures.

## Class of 1962 Celebrates 55th Anniversary

The class members, their spouses and friends will gather after the 50 Year Club dinner in the Coffee Shop on the Lower Level of Swint Hall. They would like to invite returning alumni who wish to exchange "campfire stories" with us to join and share conversation, camaraderie, cold drinks, perhaps a glass of wine or beer and snacks.....chill, with old friends. Kathy Oliver Burgoyne is planning the activity and promises that all the old folks will make their bedtime.

## History of the 50 Year Club

The reunion committee (Al Reed, Carolyn Cannon, John Mensore, Sandy Piper Sonneborn, Ed Shahady) of the class of 1960 created the idea of the 50 Year Club. The class held the first induction ceremony at their 50th reunion in 2010. This year marks the 8th anniversary of the ceremony. Al Reed '60 did the original research and planned the first ceremony. He has helped plan every ceremony since that time. The picture to the right was taken June 2010 as Al moderated the first ceremony. For a historic and entertaining video of the first ceremony point your browser to <https://vimeo.com/15213984> Terri Haid '62 was Al's assistant. The reunion class chooses two of its members to be the moderators for the event and Al and Terri contacted them by phone and email to go over the script for the ceremony. (go to page 3 for more history)



Al Reed '60

### 7th Annual 50 Year Club Lecture and Discussion

**Date:** Saturday-June 24

**Time:** 10:30 AM

**Location:** Recital Hall - CET  
1st Floor

**Title:** Social Justice

**Moderator:** John Glaser '66  
President 50 Year Club  
**Speaker:** David Quinn '67  
Others to be announced

## Message From Debra Townsley, Ph.D.

Dear 50 Year Club Members,

All of us at the University are happy to welcome members of the 50 Year Club back to campus. This year, it is my honor to induct members of the Class of 1967 in the Club on Friday evening. Most importantly, I look forward to meeting the many alumni – young and old – who are returning for this year's reunion.

There are many good things happening at Wheeling Jesuit. In April, we hosted our fourth *Gaudiosa*, which welcomed 306 guests and raised \$130,000. Throughout the evening we highlighted the talents of those very students who benefit from your support. During dinner, our Jazz Ensemble provided music and following dinner, more students took the stage and showcased their talents from music to poetry. Two members of the Class of 2017, Katy Munhall and Josh Remaniak's rendition of "The Prayer" was greeted with thunderous applause. The cast of Wheeling Jesuit's spring musical, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* performed. If you weren't there to see our students showcase their talents, you missed a great show. Thank you to all who attended and to those who made a gift.

Earlier this year, WJU's Trustees appealed to the Diocese to take action to help secure its long-term future and lower its operating costs. Specifically, the University was challenged by its long-term debt, and determined that the annual payments were more than it could sustain. Bishop Bransfield and the Diocese responded by redeeming WJU's bonds.

In exchange for the bond redemption, the Diocese will purchase all of the University's property, which it originally gifted to the University in 1952. This action will allow the University's administration to focus on strengthening operations and building a sustainable financial model. **The property will be leased back to the University at a nominal rate. The Diocese will have no ongoing responsibility for the operation of the University.**

This commitment will enable WJU to modify its cost structure with the goal of achieving a balanced budget. The University will now embark on a new strategy to reimagine, realign, and renew the future of Jesuit education that began with the support of the Diocese more than 60 years ago.

We are ever grateful for the generosity of the Diocese and Bishop Bransfield to strengthen the future of Wheeling Jesuit University. WJU is an academic community that truly lives its mission of life, leadership and service while providing a high quality, affordable education for students in West Virginia and around the world."

Also in April, we hired Sean Doyle as our Director of Admissions. Sean founded our wrestling programs four years ago and has great success recruiting outstanding student-athletes. I am confident his passion for our mission will be beneficial to our student enrollment efforts.

We are hiring a Career Services Director, to also support a position that will help our students with internships, as well as preparing for life after college. The Director will continue work with the WJU Alumni Council members who have been helping our students greatly in their job searches.

On **Saturday at 2:15 p.m., I will host a Town Hall meeting** and hope that you can join me. I plan to give an update on what is happening at your *alma mater* – from new programs on the horizon the strengthened partnership with the Jesuits and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Our time is limited to just one hour, but I encourage you to attend, because I know this gathering will be informative for everyone.

I hope to see you throughout the year when we host alumni events in your area. Once again, thank you for returning for Alumni Weekend. I encourage you to remain involved with your *alma mater* and with your class.

**President's Town Hall                      Troy Theater - Swint Hall    2:15 - 3:15 p.m.**

**Planned Giving Seminar Tom Pié '77 & Fr. Bill George, S.J. following the Town Hall**



**Debra Townsley, Ph.D.**

## History of 50 Year Club continued (Al Reed '60 and Carolyn Cannon '60)

Reunion committee research showed that the popularity of 50 Year Clubs was highest among smaller colleges and that two colleges seemed to have the best and most active clubs; Colorado College and Knox College. We contacted officials at these schools and both were willing to share their experiences with us and help us get started.

Colorado College, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado was founded in 1874 and enrolls approximately 2000 undergraduates at its 90 acre campus. During the summer of 1893, teacher Katherine Lee Bates wrote "America the Beautiful" on the campus, and the tune has become a second school anthem and is commonly sung at ceremonies like the 50 Year Club induction ceremony. Recently, Colorado College was ranked as the best private college in Colorado by Forbes and the 24<sup>th</sup> best liberal arts college in the nation in 2017 by U.S News and World Report. Director of Alumni Relations Jay Engeln and 50 Year Club coordinator, Krissy Caudle offered to help us get started.

In addition to giving advice and answering questions, Colorado College gave us photos of their induction ceremony and Club medallions along with copies of their by-laws and diploma. The information they provided was most helpful and we decided to adopt many of their procedures.

Knox College was founded in 1837 by anti-slavery social reformers and is a private, liberal art college with about 1420 students. Located in Galesburg, Illinois, it was ranked 71<sup>st</sup> among liberal arts colleges by the 1911 edition of U.S. New and World Report. The 50 Year Club was formed on June, 11, 1944 (5 days after D-Day) by 25 men and women, all of whom were from the class of 1894 or earlier. In forming the club, the guiding principle was "to preserve a record of all Knox people, which is in its essence the history of the College. The alumni are the end products of the College, its reason for existence. What they are, and what they have done is the measure of the College, its contribution to culture and civilization of the country." Since its founding, the Knox 50 Year Club has grown from 200 inaugural members to more than 2000 today. Megan Clayton, the Knox 40 Year Club coordinator since 1994 was most helpful in providing advice and copies of the bulletins, documents and other items used by their club.

Using the information provided, we formed our club to suit our needs. With the help of a consultant, (Al Reed's son Robert) we designed and got approved our diploma format and club logo. We also designed our own induction ceremony. We noted that Colorado College, although not having a religious affiliation, conducted their induction ceremony in the college chapel in a formal manner. The President and Dean wear full graduation regalia including cap and gown as they give out what they call a "second

diploma." We decided to be more informal. Since our ceremony is the first event of the reunion weekend and everyone is a little nervous (some classmates have not seen each other for 50 years) our ceremony is conducted by two members of the new 50 year class. This provides the new members with a familiar face who knows everyone in the class. After everyone receives a 50 Year Club diploma, an informal reception with refreshments is held in the same room, usually the Troy Theater. We try to conduct the diploma part of this event (which includes remarks from the WJU president) in less than one hour. Other creations of the 50 Year Club include the 50 Year Club newsletter first published in the fall of 2010, the Alumni Scholar in Residence a yearly visiting professor program by an alum for 3 to 4 days at no charge to the University and the Senior Ambassador program that has raised over 1 million dollars for the University in the last 4 years.

We have expressed our gratitude to the two colleges who helped us on several occasions. Recently, we found out that we may be able to "return the favor." Knox College likes our Senior Ambassador program and is strongly considering the start of a similar program.

With the induction ceremony for the Class of 1967, our 50 Year Club will begin its 8<sup>th</sup> year of service. We have been blessed with good officers and strong leadership from our first three presidents, Ed Shahady '60, Dan Haller '61 and John Glaser '66. We have enjoyed strong support from our college presidents, Alumni Council and Office of Alumni Relations. The Club has not only grown in membership, but has expanded the number and type of programs that are interesting to our members. We have strengthened our relationship with our school's administration and provided help with fundraising with the Senior Ambassadors organization. The 50 Year Club has become a solid member of the WJU family.

We ask all current and future 50 Year Club members to consider new ways our club can help older grads and our school. Your service can impact the lives of not only the older grads, but the current administration, faculty and students.

As we reminisced during the phone calls, Carolyn Cannon recalled Fr. Ed Gannon and the GAMBOL coming up in our discussion. Fr. Gannon once said that in the Spring of 1956 he noticed spring fever setting in on campus, and decided a variety/talent show with much student participation was necessary for morale. Carolyn and Phyllis began plans for the *Gambol Revisited* in June 2010. It included Ed Shahady MC, Johnny Joe Mensore, Fred Carruso and Pio Tei singing; Don Mercer playing the clarinet; and the Chorus lined up kicking to "Carolina in the Morning". It was a great success! Fr. Gannon must have been smiling down from heaven! Go to <https://vimeo.com/15215331> to see a very entertaining video of the performance.

## Memories—Class of 1967

### Barbara Ryan Larkin

I just spent some time looking through our Wheeling College yearbook, and sifting through old pictures to jog my memory. Even after fifty years, many memories remain vibrant and pleasant, not counting final exams and oral comps! I am happy to be writing this on a computer since we spent those four years researching our papers in the library and typing them on a typewriter, as ancient as that may sound.

I came to Wheeling College under protest. I had hoped, as the youngest of 5, to forge a new path of individuality at a state university, far from my siblings all too familiar footsteps. My sister, Pat, had graduated from Wheeling, my sister Bertie was a junior there, and my quest to strike out alone ended abruptly when my parents announced there would be no choice. I would be going to Wheeling College. And so it began, in the fall of 1963.

It didn't take long for me to realize Wheeling College would be one of the best things that ever happened to me. It was small, about 500 students. I had gone to a very large public high school, so it was a new experience to be in such a small learning community and be taught by Jesuits - such brilliant, open-minded men. Each teacher was a favorite in some way or another. Each had a mastery of his subject and seemed eager to teach us, often carrying on discussions in the snack bar after class.

During the last 50 years, some college memories have appeared unexpectedly. Looking at art, I'll remember something Father Krieger taught in that challenging Fine Arts class. Or listening to certain classical music, I'll see an enthusiastic Robert Kreis directing it, and teaching us how to recognize different composers. I clearly remember Father Kern's Theology of Marriage course that he taught so well he decided to get married too! I owe a debt of gratitude to Father Jim O'Brien both for all he taught us, and for listening to our problems during those years. His calm manner and wise words always helped. Wheeling College provided an excellent liberal arts education. In our many philosophy and theology classes, we were asked hard questions, we read amazing books and were always encouraged to think for ourselves. These were valuable life lessons that continue to have an impact on my life today, both spiritually and emotionally.

Our class always seemed to have fun together, even during class. Some courses were more engaging than others so in one less than interesting class, Tim MacCarthy and Mike Stanton used to continuously push down the girls' knee socks for entertainment! Another memory was the time we had a formal dance downtown and while all my friends were going in style in a taxi, just for a laugh, Woodie Stevens took me to it (in my fancy dress and heels) on the Wheeling bus!

Many college friendships have endured all these years. I had the best roommate, Jean Schrei. Our claim to fame was that we were the only two girls in our class who roomed together for all four years. The campus looked very different then, sparse by comparison. We lived in Sara Tracy for the first two years, signing in and out and had proctors who made sure we had lights out at 10 PM. Junior year I moved up to the apartment on the hill. I have very fond memories of that place where eight of us lived together, with other friends in the building. We operated like a family, complete with all the ups and downs that go with it such as sharing our snacks, or not sharing them, and arguing endlessly about that. (J'Ann Schoonmaker, did you ever forgive me for drinking your soda?) We had to learn how to deal with differences, sharing that small space. We learned how to put up with each other's unique tastes in music, sports and other habits. We studied together for finals and oral comps. We shared clothes and happy and sad stories. We ordered chocolate cream pie from Elbys, and "studied" at Oglebay on nice days. We laughed. I'll never forget the time my friends woke me up to throw my birthday party at 4 AM because I had complained I wanted to do something special for my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Weekends (after studying of course) meant Moxies, or the Alpha, or Tom's, or the Pizza Inn or ice-skating at Wheeling Park. We went to proms, parties at Terry Flynn's house and the Yacht Club. We wore our red "dinks" freshmen year, went to Opening Salvo, then the Last Blast. We took long walks and climbed the hills surrounding the campus. And I got rich working in the dining hall for four years at 75 cents an hour!

Picture (L-R) Kathy Buckley (deceased), Jean Schrei, Barbara Larkin, J'Ann Schoonmaker at our 25th reunion  
(continued page 5)



### **Memories Continued (from page 4)—Class of 1967 (Barbara Larkin )**

Music was a big part of campus life with Gambol a big event. Bertie and I sang in it, and many classmates were in the chorus. We went to hootenannies and sang folk songs. And yes, I was a very big fan of the Countrymen during their rise to fame! I'll admit our close knit community could get annoying, like when you immediately got "tagged" when first dating someone. But at Wheeling College we learned the importance of kindness, how to "love one another" through service to others: SIU, tutoring, helping out at the local girls home, cleaning out a family's mud-filled basement after a flood, or just working with each other in clubs and organizations on campus.

In closing, I have to mention a specific ice-skating trip at Wheeling Park in fall 1964. A bunch of us, including Mike Stanton, Woodie Stevens, Larry Smith, and Kathy Knodel went together. Mike and I grew weary of just skating around and around in a circle, so we made up a game. We'd skate really fast down the center of the rink, then fall down, and see who could slide the farthest on the ice, laughing. Suddenly, someone blew a loud whistle at us to stop. The Wheeling Park Rink Guard appeared and kicked us off the ice for not following the rules! I noticed he was wearing a Wheeling College jacket, apologized, and told him I went to Wheeling College too. This is where Wheeling College really had a huge impact on my life. That guard was Jack Larkin, now my husband of almost 48 years, four married children, nine grandchildren and the rest is history....

### **Memories by J'Ann Schoonmaker Allen '67**

We graduated fifty years ago. WOW! It just doesn't seem possible! While my first memory of Wheeling College was driving onto the campus in a light blue Tempest sobbing that I wanted my father to turn around and take me home, as a group of students swarmed our car, checking my name, and sending us down to Sara Tracy Hall where in no time the students unloaded the car and welcomed me, my most enduring memory is hanging with women in dorm rooms, as Jane Rohner mentioned. I grew up in those rooms listening to "The Lettermen" and pouring out my soul.

I felt frustrated that I was doing "nothing" at Wheeling after Kennedy charged us to "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country," and the US was escalating the Viet Nam war. As I shared my feelings, the record ended and I got up to change it. When I sat down, Kathy Buckley commented something about my having just done something for others that no one else had done: I got up and moved when everyone else sat still and waited. I cried. (That was not unusual for me). That moment and my last moments with Fr. Muldowney when I sobbed that I wanted to drop out of Wheeling, remind me of the gift of my relationships at Wheeling. Fr. Muldowney would leave the next day, Monday, for a meeting in Chicago. We'd just returned from a break, possibly Easter weekend. I didn't want to return to school. I was homesick and the world seemed to be moving without me as I studied philosophy, Theology, English, math and whatever else a Liberal Arts major studies. I wanted to do something. The world was out there. Kennedy's assassination the previous November touched all of us. Johnson was trying to build the great society and I was wrapped up in my studies. Muldowney must have talked to me a half hour or more that night. As I left his office he said, "And if you try to leave, I'm going to tie you to a chair and make you stay." Fr. Muldowney died later that week while attending a meeting. I stayed.

I studied my eyes out, danced my heart out at Moxie's, walked home with a classmate, Mike Stanton perhaps, who cautioned me about drinking, learned the meaning of some important words from my wise friend Barb Ryan Larkin, finally fell in love with Jim Allen. I graduated. In between Fr. Jimmy O'Brien taught me that I couldn't cry away my Philosophy orals as he handed me the box of tissues, John Millar tried to teach me to play tennis, Mary Kay Devine Hudnall and Jeanie Schrei Harkins showed me patience, Marty Buckley taught me to knit mittens, Dick Hillyard and lots of other guys reminded me of the importance of humor and I thrived. I loved learning. Our instructors modeled the joys of learning by their simple presence and dedication. Where else would I have read *Lady Chatterley's Lover* in a small group led by a Jesuit, Fr. Laut, or listened to Gore Vidal discuss whatever esoteric thing he discussed.

Wheeling wasn't perfect. In hind sight I realize that Wheeling had lots to learn about feminism. When I think of Fr. Freeze opening every single day's Metaphysics lecture with, "Now, Gentlemen. . . (long pause) and Ladies," as if we, few though we were, women were an afterthought, I realize how brave I was to tell Fr. Burke about it. However, the next class Fr. Freeze opened with, "Now, Gentlemen and ladies, and J'Ann. Where are you, J'Ann?" And I didn't have the courage to take exception to that as all the males laughed and I cowered somewhere near the back of the class. Although my educational experience of Wheeling is one of my most treasured accomplishments, I believe the women taught me to love. The women taught me the importance of relationships with both males and females. The welcoming hospitality of Wheeling is both what drew me and kept me.

Two years ago, my niece and god-daughter, Angie Schoonmaker Coggins' daughter, Allie, started at Wheeling. Her parents had barely driven home when my sister-in-law called to tell me how much they all loved Wheeling. Students had surrounded their car and welcomed my great niece into their arms. Thank you, Wheeling.

## Memories Woodie Stevens '67

My academic college career was anything but “sterling” until I went to Wheeling College in the Fall of 1963.

After I graduated and left Valley Forge Military Academy and its focused disciplines I floundered at two attempts of college..... Temple University was less than a year, when I quit and got a job, then the second attempt was Elizabethtown College when I went to summer school to gain entrance for freshman year. By the year’s end I was once again unsuccessful and came home and got another job. My third attempt was Wheeling College and how I got there was amazing.

My father was a Dentist and his Dental Hygienist had a brother, Fr. John Walsh, a local diocesan priest here in Delaware County, Pa. My parents were determined that I get a college education and I had absolutely NO interest in getting one. My father asked his hygienist, Mrs. Kay Shields to set up a meeting with Fr. Walsh to help sell me on a new college that the Jesuit order had recently started in Wheeling West “BY GOD” Virginia.

Father Walsh had recently returned from a Retreat that he attended in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and his roommate was Fr. Gordy Henderson the director of admissions at the new Wheeling College. I took an entrance exam in Fr. Walsh’s office and within a week, I was accepted.....guess they needed bodies! In late summer, I flew in to Wheeling. The airport was on a West Virginia mountain that they had chopped off the top to make a runway. The terminal had two tarmac entrances...one for fire equipment and the other for passengers. After I got my luggage, I got on a bus that was going down town and the driver said that he would drop me off at the college. Once at the main gate, I walked to McHugh Hall and found my room. A senior, Jeff McGearry, came in to help me unpack and then took me over to get dinner at the Benedum Room, I think it was called. As we walked over to the dining room, he told me “In your four years here, you will see the most magnificent sun sets that you will ever see anywhere”. He was so right and he immediately made me feel very welcome in my new surroundings. The next day I met my “roomie”, Mike Stanton. We were roommates for all four years and he was a perfect roommate and great friend.

During orientation, the Dean, Fr. Muldowney met with our class in the Swint Lounge. He had a few nuggets that I have never forgotten. One, he welcomed us to “The Wheeling College Family.” What a concept!! We were immediately members of a COMMUNITY! He told us that we had made it through one of two major hurdles.....here we are over the first one! We got in! and the next is getting out! Graduation! The second thing he stressed was, “Here at Wheeling College you will have an academic major and three minors. One minor is your choice and the other two minors we require. There will be 8 semesters of Philosophy and 8 semesters of Theology and if you don’t like that, there are many other colleges that you can attend.” Father John Schneider told us that the reason for the many courses in Theology was simple. “If you don’t keep improving your spiritual growth up to the level of your academic growth, you will eventually consider your spiritual life small and immature. Many people discard it for the rest of their lives, so we require that you take Theology so it will become an integral part of your life’s foundation.”

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Freshman year, Fr. Muldowney called me into his office and asked me how everything was going? I told him that all was ok, but that I was having trouble with Mr. Haggerty’s basic mathematic course. Father agreed since he had my records in front of him. He told me that he noticed that I had passed a basic math course when attending Elizabethtown College and that he was transferring it from there to Wheeling.....HAPPY BIRTHDAY he said with a smile. So, I dropped Mr. Haggerty’s course! Father also mentioned that I had to work pretty hard to do so poorly at E-Town....haha

It is amazing, as you think back over the years, to how MANY and WHO made our life’s goals and opportunities happen. I refer to all of them as pivotal. People you can remember by name. It also awakens us that we are also pivotal people in others lives and you never know who it may be. Therefore we must be on our best compassionate behavior all the time.

In the beginning of my freshman year, I met a classmate, Tony Gurley, who played a Goya nylon stringed guitar and I was just learning to play the 5 string banjo, so we collaborated and learned a few songs together. Tony and I were invited to play at the Freshman/Junior party, so we, “Tony and Clyde Scroggens” played in public for the first time. Great fun and the beginning of “The Countrymen”, which I have already recorded.

Also during freshman year, there were other outstanding courses and events. Father “JOB” Jimmy O’Brien’s courses in Philosophy....Logic and Epistemology (Noetics) was an amazing introduction to the study of Philosophy. He was an amazing teacher, mentor, professor and an amazing friend. There is no doubt that he was one of the most outstanding teachers that I had in all my formal education. The other very outstanding freshman course was “The History of Western Civilization” taught by Dr. Al Bender. He too was such a five star teacher. **(continued page 7)**

## Memories Continued Woodie Stevens '67

I went to him to ask him to change my science Pre-Med major to one in History. He advised me to continue towards my goal of Dentistry and to use the study and knowledge of history to fill my intellectual study, which I have done ever since and I am very grateful for his advice.

Socially we can never forget the parties at "The Alpha" or the beers at "The Cardinal Inn" (aka MOXIES!) or the times like this one!! Mike Stanton decided to "repelle" off the railing of the footbridge over the creek with a rolled up shower curtain. Once he started over the edge of the bridge, the shower curtain tore and he fell to the bottom on his back in the mud...laughing all the way. No injury! Just hilarity. AND! Who could ever forget "The Gooz", Fr. McGoarty, as he silently floated everywhere UNEXPECTEDLY! There were so many wonderful memories and occasions that cannot be included here.

Other outstanding and remarkable professors were Fr. Don Freeze and his HUGE course of Metaphysics.....UGH! and WOW! and Dr. John Hartman professor of Organic Chemistry who GOT ME through that very difficult course. He was so patient with me, and was another pivotal person in my life. He even came to my graduation party from the University of Pennsylvania Dental School ten years later.

Father Duke, professor of Chemistry was another remarkable communicator...wonderful teacher. I remember one time he was trying to explain a concept, and he was having trouble getting us to "see" the principle. After he explained the concept, he looked at us and said, "You all look like a room full of owls, so let me try it from another angle." At the end of that attempt we were still obviously in a fog, so, he said, "Let's try it from this point." No better, we were still not getting it. So, rested his chin in the palms of his hands, looked at us and said, "All I can do is say it LOUDER!" We all laughed including him.

As I look back 50 years at my life at Wheeling College, I have nothing but wonderful memories, "The Countrymen", the friendships and the hard disciplined work. One reason that I did well at the college was that the Jesuits believed in discipline and rules, similar to the ones I lived by and learned at Valley Forge Military Academy. Those values and principles have been the "bedrock" of my life and they still are. I have learned that values and principle do not change...mores do change and that makes them shallow. Anyone that was not mentioned was not intentionally omitted! The ones here were just outstanding and there were many others, but I am not writing a book....just a simple account.

I feel that we were in the "Golden Years of Education" during our tenure there. I am so grateful for all the times, people and influences I had during our four years.



**The Countrymen (L-R) Bud Doyle, Mike Stanton, Jim "Fitz" Fitzgerald, Larry Smith (on drum...class of 1965), Tony Gurley, "Woodie" Stevens and Mike Farasey**



**Class of 1967—Freshman Class**



**Class of 67 - 35th Reunion June 2002**  
**Pictures courtesy of Barbara Ryan Larkin**

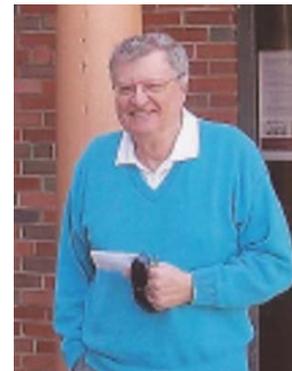
# WJU Archives Come Alive-3rd Exhibition-Don Mercer '60 McDonough Center - Saturday June 24, 2017

## Wheeling Jesuit Memorials Reviewed

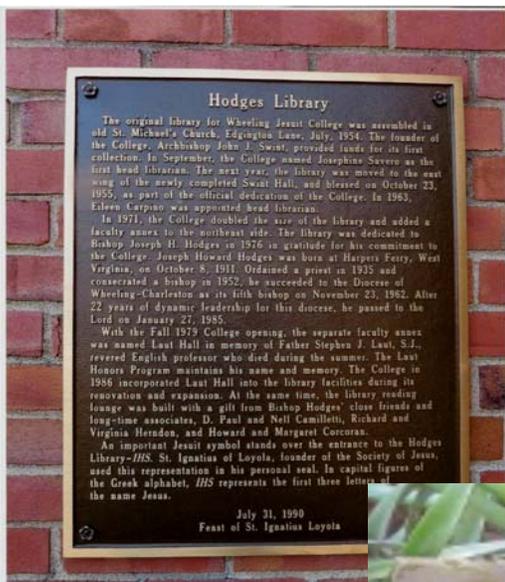
**Photographs** of over 50 existing memorials will be displayed at the 2017 Alumni Weekend site: McDonough Center on Saturday, June 24 from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Also displayed will be samples of posters from the 2015 and 2016 exhibitions. All exhibits are sponsored by the WJU Alumni Council and 50 Year Club.

Gifts of property as a memorial to someone is an excellent way to give to WJU. When you give in this manner, you not only help the University advance its mission but you also memorialize the name of a special person.

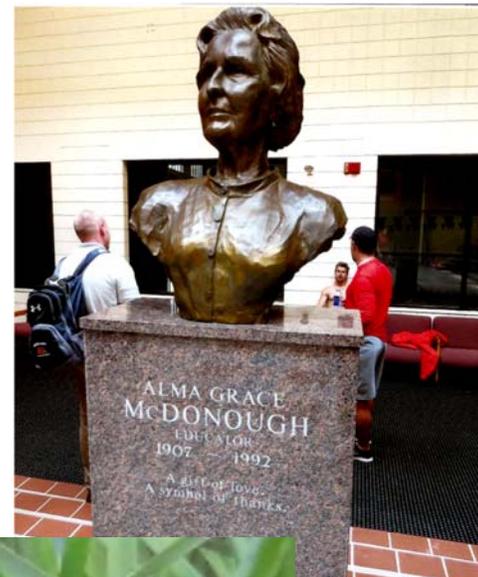
Listed below are some examples of the memorials. Pictures of several other examples of gifts of property; art, antiques, rare books, manuscripts, and musical instrument will be on display June 24th. In McDonough center. Note: gift giving in this manner requires an independent appraisal of the gift's value for tax purposes which adds a cost saving benefit to the giver.



**Don Mercer '60**



**Hodges Library  
Swint Hall**



**Alma McDonough**



**Michael and Mary Burke  
By Father Joseph Burke**

## Greetings from Fr. Fleming

I'm almost through a 6-month sabbatical that the WJU Board of Trustees granted me after I stepped down from the president's job. Msgr. Quirk, the Board Chair and WJU alum, has shown his talent as a salient leader and creative thinker. I spent 3 months at Georgetown during which I got to see Jesuit friends and other friends/family on the east coast - including a memorable trip to NYC for St. Patrick's Day! The second half of the sabbatical was spent at Santa Clara University. I'll be in Europe for June/July - vacation, education conference, and an 8-day silent retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House in Dublin.

Seven years of making decisions at Wheeling, a place that needed so many decisions made, was enough for me. Three years as VP for Mission and four years as President is twice as long as the last four Jesuit administrators spent here. It is not, as you can imagine, an easy place to run.

Even though it was difficult, I was supported with care and wise counsel from some amazing folks (alumni, brother Jesuits, friends/family, Board members, and especially my Jesuit superiors - local and provincial). We reduced expenses while increasing enrollment, which is not an easy task. Although we started that during my time at WJU, much more of it has been accomplished since I left. I think the place is in very good hands.

Key to it all was Bishop Bransfield's vision for a Catholic college in West Virginia and his extremely generous gifts to the school including removing WJU's long-term debt. Additionally we reignited some interest from and trust of the alumni and other benefactors during my seven year tenure. With that kind of investment and the other changes, it seemed a smart and natural place to end my role as president. I love the place and learned a lot here, but, as I say, seven years is long enough for one person to have this much decision making power and pressure. The next chapter will be written by others.

Letting-go and making space for my imagination to be informed by what God wants next for me has been my goal for these sabbatical days - asking, "What is God's dream for me?". I've been talking with my provincial about possibilities - he is encouraging me to dream a bit, too. The "good little boy" in me wants a new assignment tomorrow. My wiser and healthier side is gently moving me to slow-down and, as I wrote in my journal today, "let it come to me, rather than running after it". The Jesuits have many needs and I want to be available to help meet the ones that fit best with my gifts and experience.

Jesus has been a constant - and often humorous - companion these days. He's asking me to be open to little graces (like a chance to talk with some WJU alums) that allow me to put words on my current experiences. Thanks for cooperating with grace and reaching out to me. You have always been such insightful and enthusiastic guides during my years in Wheeling.

**50 Year Club Web site—point your browser to [wju.edu/alumni/50yearclub](http://wju.edu/alumni/50yearclub)**



**In the 50 year club web site you will find a variety of items that include:**

**Past Newsletters**

**Historical Documents of the Club**

**Senior Ambassadors**

**Alumni Scholar reports**

**Yearbooks**

**Pictures from reunions of classes of 60—through 66**

**Site is updated every 4 months.**

## Message from Father Bill George on planned giving.

President Debra Townsley will be holding a Town Hall Meeting on the Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 in Troy Theater. After she speaks we will have a succinct, but clear **presentation about planned giving**. Our Alumni, Tom Piè '77 and John Lewis '80, experts in the field, will present the five best ways to give a planned gift to WJU. If you have questions, they will be happy to answer them. Tom, John and Matt Rak '01 who works with John, have offered their expertise at no charge to any alumni who want to make a planned gift to WJU.

Please help us spread the word to encourage as many of alumni as possible to attend the presentation. If people are unable to attend, they can contact me and I will send them materials that John and Tom distribute.

A planned gift in your will is the best way to help WJU prepare for its future and develop an endowment.

Peace,

Fr. Bill George, S.J. (304-243-8144) on line go to [www.wju.edu/advancement/makeplanned.asp](http://www.wju.edu/advancement/makeplanned.asp)

## Senior Ambassadors raise over 1.4 million in last 4 years.

June 14, 2017

Class	Amount	FY 17 donors	FY16 donors	Solicitable Alumni	FY17%	FY16 %	Avg. Gift
1959	\$28,660	8	11	27	30%	41%	\$3,583
1960	\$32,680	12	21	38	32%	55%	\$2,723
1961	\$25,160	18	33	59	31%	56%	\$1,398
1962	\$12,452	19	22	49	39%	45%	\$655
1963	\$12,520	21	28	72	29%	39%	\$596
1964	\$45,765	18	37	81	22%	46%	\$2,542
1965	\$4,535	22	36	89	25%	40%	\$206
1966	\$7,320	20	45	87	23%	52%	\$366
1967	\$46,187	37	27	82	45%	33%	\$1,248
1968	\$13,434	33	33	111	30%	30%	\$407
1969	\$27,325	45	60	156	29%	38%	\$607
1970	\$4,730	27	35	147	18%	24%	\$175
1971	\$2,437	17	30	126	13%	24%	\$143
1972	\$8,738	17	31	124	14%	25%	\$514
1973	\$6,240	24	27	113	21%	24%	\$260
	<b>\$278,183</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>\$823</b>
2013	\$75,000	over 3 months					
2014	\$185,527	1 year					
2015	\$382,583	1 year					
2016	\$520,328	1 year					
2017	\$278,183	to date					
	<b>\$1,441,621</b>	Since 2013					

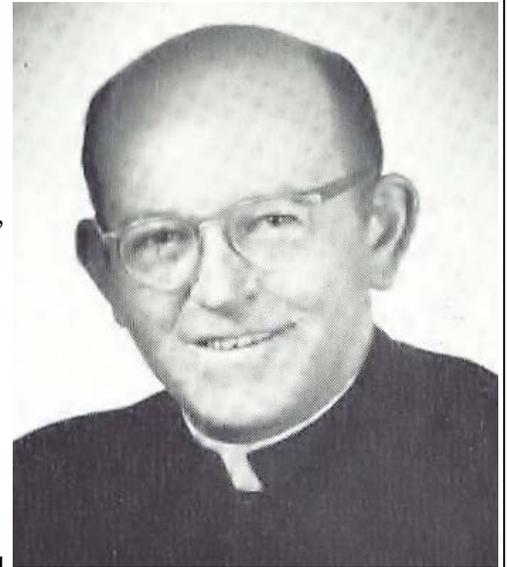
To give go on line at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/wju/>

## Father James Muldowney S.J. by Dr. Paul Orr

On the first day of 1957's Spring Semester, a completely integrated Sociology Department, ( perhaps a first in the Maryland Province), began to function. A day or two earlier Fr. James Muldowney, that one -man Department, had arrived, raring to go, his new University of North Carolina Sociology Ph.D in hand.

In his late thirties, erect, of medium height, saved from the pejorative "skinny" by eight or nine pounds though clearly threatened by male-pattern baldness, Muldowney had a round, amiable face and eyes which might twinkle, and often did. In his pocket there was a small troll, an image perhaps of his alter ego.

Never before in Wheeling, Muldowney was JUST where he wanted to be. Had he been assigned to Georgetown or St. Joseph's, for example, he would have been just one more instructor in a sprawling Social Science Department, teaching introductory courses to Freshmen who hoped to become policemen. Not for him and, if he could help it, not for Wheeling College. Sociology was too important a study of the human condition to be less than an upstanding and independent program. This new College, with all its potential to become the model for modern Jesuit Education, had to provide this essential, modern, discipline.



**James Muldowney, S.J.**

Having won his wished-for posting in July of '56, he began immediately to pepper William Troy, S.J., the College's Academic Dean, with searching academic questions. Dean Troy was good at answering questions and spent long hours every week doing his paperwork. So on that first day of the semester, when the bell rang for the start of class, punctual to the second, Muldowney stepped into his classroom, knowing exactly what he as well as his academic superior wanted to do. With that impish spirit in those twinkling eyes, he would slowly close the classroom door when the bell rang, forcing the rushing late-comers to squeeze through its narrowing gap. He would then proceed to pelt them as they found their seats with questions about their world. "How did the stock market do yesterday? What's the Pope worried about now? Who just declared his candidacy for President?" But those eyes also could steadily harden, and nail you to your desk if you spoke offensively.

During his all-too-brief tenure at the College, it became clear that, except for Dean Troy and, arguably Father Joseph Duke, S.J., Professor of Chemistry, Muldowney, in several ways but three in particular, was the most valuable Jesuit to join the College in its first ten year of existence.

First and most importantly, he was an interesting, demanding, sometimes exciting teacher with views often at variance with his students' comfortable, rather parochial assumptions. Among his peers, older teachers like Fathers Kernan and Kennedy were inclined to brush Sociology off as a playing around with numbers, of limited interest and value. Nevertheless, an impressive number of students disagreed with this assessment and changed their majors to Sociology. They learned from him that this discipline was a tool to identify the world's realities in new, surprising and important ways. Not the least of those realities was the deplorable state of race relations in the United States, one at variance with our ideals as a nation and as Christians. This was an issue whose many facets he explored with a passion and a purpose. Very carefully, he taught his students how to use the tools of the discipline. He did more. By brief general questions at the start of class he encouraged reading (including the cartoon strip Pogo) for general and current relevance to what he hoped would be their educated lives. He aimed high: Quite specifically he was preparing some students to become candidates for the Rhodes Scholarship.

Fortuitously or not, it worked. Clayton Hudnal '59, from the first class to graduate, won the chance to represent West Virginia in the Rhodes competition's first round. "That, if you people do not realize it" said Forest Kirkpatrick, Chairman of the Presidents Council, "is as incredible an accomplishment for this brand new, not even accredited, school as for the Mets to win the pennant their first year in the league." Clayton's success turbo-charged interest in all this academic stuff, and by 1964, four more seniors had become candidates against the best in the State. Muldowney was quietly pleased and kept pushing the most promising Seniors to, "Think Rhodes". And those who had shown academic success but did not measure up as "Rhodes material," his unrelenting push was, "Think grad school." **(continued next page)**

## **Father Muldowney continued**

What clearly identified Muldowney as First among his peers, was the depth and breadth of his academic understanding in the service of two deeply influential committees. The first was an ad hoc one appointed by Dean Troy immediately following an acrimonious March, 1959 faculty meeting.. In the last semester prior to the first graduation, faculty collegiality was long gone. Contracts of some popular faculty were not to be renewed; other faculty had chosen to go elsewhere. The widely varying application of the outdated salary scale was a source of general bitterness. In response, Troy appointed three laymen to a committee to diagnose the problems and report back by April 30. "You must have a Jesuit...choose the one you want and try to persuade him to serve." The unanimous choice, almost automatic, was James Muldowney. Predictably he was reluctant to serve. The report would inevitably be somewhat critical and, and as every family member would be, he was very reluctant to be disloyal to his beloved Jesuit family or to any member of it. Nevertheless, in the end, he consented. The committee then met for two hours every school day and, if necessary to complete the week's assignment, on Saturday mornings. The report was given to Troy on 30 April, all notes and minutes and extra copies were destroyed, and it officially was never again heard from or discussed.

The second committee was in charge of the push for accreditation. William Troy had become President of the College in July of 1958. Ignoring the traditional advice to new institutions, "do not apply for accreditation as soon as you are eligible," he and Muldowney decided to apply as soon as the College was eligible. Accordingly a committee was named, about equally divided between Jesuits and laymen plus one lay woman, Dr. Joan Doyle. Muldowney was chair and inevitably the committee met every class day from four to six and on Saturdays as needed. It met regularly for thirteen weeks. Troy warned the faculty that much extra work would be asked of them and requested that, while keeping "good teaching" as their first priority, they were asked to put aside research and outside interests in favor of the urgencies of gaining accreditation. The one committee member who showed by his inertia that he would not comply with Troy's request, Muldowney replaced after the first week.

Since the Faculty Accreditation Committee needed to know and assess every aspect of the College - Teaching, Administration, Finance, Building and Grounds, Library and Enrollment- its first task was to find out from these areas what it needed to know. After a couple of weeks consumed with drawing them up, questionnaires began to flow. Every day or two flowed forth their probing and damnably searching questions. Soon thereafter, every day or two in flowed the answers. The process was repeated until the committee was satisfied with the answers. Around week thirteen a straw vote was taken. "Are we ready to apply?" The answer was a unanimous "no!" Vocationally, both priests and scientists must have a large reserve of hope. Being both, and perhaps doubly endowed, Muldowney did not agree, and decided to go forward. "It's not that bad. We'll mandate a few changes and put our best foot forward in our written report."

Over the semester break Muldowney composed a marvelously clear, well-organized, substantially detailed and persuasive Self-Study. Early in the second semester, the North Central's team of examiners arrived to check the written reports against the realities before them, They visited classrooms and offices, queried students, faculty and minor administrators. They made a point of grilling one remaining member of Troy's Ad Hoc committee of April, 1959. "Had there been real, and permanent results for the good?" They must have been pleased by what they learned for on March 28, 1962 Wheeling College was officially accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Muldowney and his inquisitors had scored again.

On the autumn 1963 day he was announced as the new Academic Dean, a survivor of his "meet daily" committees invaded his office and found him preparing to move. "Congratulations," he said, adding, "but I'm afraid you'll get an ulcer." Muldowney kept right on moving his files into a packing case. "Not me, buddy, not me" he said, shoving a final three files into the case and then starting to tape it up. "Not me! Some other people might get ulcers, but I won't." Nor did he.

But he was like a man whistling as he crossed a graveyard. Muldowney family members had a history of dying in their forties. However, seeing his dreams for Wheeling College now even more his responsibility, if anything he worked harder. He continued to teach two separate Sociology courses, spent a full day in the Dean's Office, then worked late every night, doing Dean stuff, grading papers, preparing classes, and last, but not least, counseling students. But he didn't make it across. Six months later, on April 9, 1964, at a conference of North Central members at Chicago's Palmer House, a massive heart attack jolted him where he sat. He died at once.

**Scholar, teacher, model Jesuit priest, visionary but practical administrator, Reverend James Muldowney, S.J. was deeply and widely mourned. His Funeral Mass was sung at St. Michael's on National Road but viewing hours were in Swint Hall, There, before his casket was closed, a typical Muldowney graduate popped in a Troll.**

## 50 Year Club

The following individuals are Club Officers and board members serving June 2016-June 2018. President-John Glaser '66, 1st Vice President-Al Reed '60, 2nd Vice President-Don Mercer '60, Secretary-, Lillian Gangwere Cale '66, Past President-Dan Haller '61. Members at Large - Barbara Creamer Yeager '59, John Eagan McAteer '61, Fr. John DiBacco '62, Geno Julian '64, JJ Lauer '64, Larry Meagher '65 and Lillian Gangwere Cale '66.

### 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/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 1959 through 1973. The group meets yearly at the time of the reunion and then by conference call during the year. Senior Ambassadors have been very dedicated fundraisers for WJU, raising more than \$1.3 million dollars to date. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, they've already raised over \$230,000.00.

**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 on campus fall of 2015 and John Stopper '75 was the scholar for 2016. 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).



**Jeanne Barrett Hamilton '66 receiving 50 Year Club Diploma**