



# 50 Year Club Newsletter

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## Class of 1968 Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The class will gather in Benedum room at 5 PM on Friday June 22rd 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 Phil Rusciollelli and Lucille Antonucci Fontana from the Class of 68. 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 1968 will remain in the Benedum Room for some fun activities planned by the reunion committee. Saturday morning the annual 50 year club lecture discussion will be held. John Glaser '65 50 Year Club President will moderate, Brian McCagh '68 will be the presenter on the topic of "Service to Others" and Dan Haller 61' will respond to Brian's remarks.

## History of the 50 Year Club

The class of 1960 reunion committee (Al Reed, Carolyn Cannon, John Mensore, Sandy Piper Sonneborn, Ed Shahady) 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 9th anniversary of the ceremony. Al Reed '60 did the original research for the club and planned the first ceremony. He has helped plan every ceremony since that time. 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. 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 (Al) also designed our own induction ceremony.

The picture below 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>.

The reunion class chooses two of its members to be the moderators for the event and Al contacts them by phone and email to go over the script for the ceremony. In addition to giving advice and answering questions, 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.

Have a great time this year and continue your strong support of WJU.



*Al Reed '60*

# Message From President Debra Townsley, Ph.D.



## Dear 50 Year Club Members,

Another year passes, and it is time to welcome members of the 50-Year Club back to campus for Alumni Weekend. It is my honor to induct members of the Class of 1968 into the 50-Year Club on Friday evening, June 22nd and host a cocktail party after the ceremony. I will also host a Town Hall meeting on Saturday, June 23rd at 2:15 PM, and I hope you can join me for that event where I will give an update on what is happening at your alma mater and answer questions.

There are many good things at WJU! Our fifth successful Gaudiosa in April highlighted the talents of students who benefit from your support. We had a slide show highlighting student service to the community, and students entertained guests with singing and dancing from our spring performance of Pippin. Thank you to all who attended and to those who made a gift.

In April, we hired Joe Edmiston as Vice President for Advancement. Joe has been working in Advancement with Trinity Health Systems. He and his wife and two young daughters live in Weirton, WV. You will have the opportunity to meet Joe at various Alumni Weekend events.

In the last year, Professor Emeritus status was awarded to two retiring faculty members: Dr. Jonathan Lief and Dr. Debra Hull. Faculty members also continued their work in teaching and scholarship. Fr. Michael Steltenkamp is one of three experts appointed by the Bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota, to examine whether Nicholas Black Elk should be considered for canonization by the Catholic Church. Dr. Bryan Raudenbush organized our 19th Student Research and Scholarship Symposium. Drs. Peter Ehni and Mary Railing grow lettuce and field greens for the community from our hydroponic lab, and Carrie Abraham, WJU alumna and clinical associate professor of Physical Therapy, was awarded a grant from the American Physical Therapy Association to design a community awareness video to outline the benefits of physical therapy as an alternative to pharmaceuticals for chronic pain management.



*Debra Townsley, Ph.D.*

In this newsletter last year, I introduced Sean Doyle, Vice President for Enrollment. Sean and his team are doing a fantastic job. We are projecting one of the largest Fall classes ever at WJU! Currently, the deposited students have a 3.4 grade point average, selecting majors from the sciences to education and business to our new major—Simulation Technology and Game Design.

Our Athletic Coaches and teams, under the direction of our new Athletic Director, Rudy Yovich, have had a successful year. Women's Softball, Women's Track and Field, and Men's Basketball won Mountain East Athletic Conference (MEC) championships, and WJU Junior, Terrance Fanning, captured an NCAA National Wrestling title.

Our athletic teams competed for the first-ever campus Cardinal Cup, where points were awarded for attendance at campus sporting events, student performances and lectures. The first Cardinal Cup winner was Women's Volleyball! Our teams also completed 5,000 hours in community service and achieved an overall 3.06 GPA.

I look forward to seeing you soon and meeting the many alumni – young and old – who are returning for this year's reunion. I also encourage you to attend the Town Hall meeting so you will be up to date on what is happening at WJU.

# Coming of Age on the 3rd Floor of McHugh

## Jim DeSarno '68



As I began to think about August 1964, I thought about the 3rd floor of McHugh. The moving in, the parent's good-byes, the other male residents, and the confusion of determining exactly what is my space? After all, at my house in Wheaton, MD, I had my space. It was clearly defined and it was mine with only minimal parental intrusion. But now, all these other people in my life and personal space! "They are not my family . . . I don't think they love me." Little did I know then, that they in fact, would be my family, my wonderful Wheeling College family that I would grow with and remember for the rest of my life. But then there was the promise of a freshman orientation mixer that night for all freshmen students. As if the move-in was not providing enough anxiety, there was a party to go to and meet other people, following my abandonment in Wheeling WV. But why was I worried. I had the "The Inkling" student handbook to guide my every move.

As it turned out, the mixer was an opportunity to meet my fellow freshmen who would become another piece of my Wheeling College family. Orientation was itself a process of learning and socialization. But not complete until the "Dink Dance" and the "Opening Salvo". While we as freshmen were forming bonds and lifelong friendships as a Wheeling family, the core of my freshman family was up on the third floor of McHugh. There was on our third floor world, a cast of characters. There was a Baily, a Barchie, a Bertelli, a Bombick, a Boyle (2 of them), a Bowman, a Briola, a Challaghan and a Callahan (no G), a Carr, a Clark a Chokel, a Chalmers and more C's and D's. There was a roommate Ken D'Appolonia and a Spook (Kallina - not a C or D). I guess the alphabet was a good way as any to house us. In our section of the 3rd floor, there was also a resident assistant and an Albert H. Jenemann our own resident S.J.

And so we were, a captured lot, two to a room on a long hall, which sometimes

served as a bowling alley and cement block walls to help guide some to their room on Saturday night after a evening at Moxie's. We all seemed to somehow blend on that hall. Some more studious than others, some more fun loving than others, some more religious than others but all seeking the same goal – make it through that first difficult year. We learned together, we laughed together, we prayed together, we fought together but we mostly learned to love one another and accept each other as brothers.

There were serious times and study times but mostly I remember the crazy times. The communal bathroom was interesting. There were those who required and carried the softer, gentler TP that mom left them. Until it ran out and they realized that they needed to spend money to continue that particular pleasurable experience. And of course, there was bed making, such as it was. And laundry which I seemed to somehow enjoy. But I quickly realized that when you pay for laundry, the separation of whites and dark clothes was a laundry day myth. So what if your underwear (we wore white ones in those days) were pink from all that Wheeling College red.

Yes, we learned together but soon knew that it would take more than a freshman year on the third floor of McHugh Hall to really come of age. Together, we experienced family tragedy and joy. We understood that we had family responsibility to each other and to the College and to the community in which we lived. We joined college clubs, athletics, and community organizations. Some of us were Gambol Thespians, some of us were helping fight the Wheeling floods and some battling on the rugby field. But we all were growing into Wheeling College men.

There was growth on the third floor and Father Jenemann would help make most of it happen. In spite of the occasional laundry bag hanging out of the window acting as a cooler on a cold day and the hallway shenanigans or the Christmas tree that found its way out of the third

floor window, we did embrace the purpose of a Wheeling College education and the spiritual and social growth offered to each of us.

In our Wheeling College community, we were blessed to be a part of a young and caring Wheeling College with a dedicated and enthusiastic faculty. We went on from that first year to a second with our third floor brothers. As we continued to bond in our junior year, a group of us stayed together and went to Avila House on Washington Avenue and took Father J. Donald Freeze, S.J. with us.

Our own house off campus, surely we had come of age. Not so quick. There were many more lessons to be learned. While the Boyles (there were 2 of them) Bobrick, the Calla(g)hans, Clark, Plant, Spook, Murphy, Loftus, Bowman, our non-resident resident, and others had more independence and our own side yard football field, we were still moving forward toward the goal. I moved on to a Resident Assistant job in senior year, while some others from the third floor gang went to the "new revolutionary" apartments on campus. We continued to learn from each other, the faculty and the Wheeling College spirit.

Yes, it was senior year, 1968, and we were the men of Wheeling College. The small Jesuit College had done it's best to make us strong, prepared Christian men and women to meet the challenges ahead. Fr. Frank Haig and some twelve other Jesuits on the staff helped provide the spirit and vision of Wheeling College. I don't know if any class since has had that number and quality of Jesuit influence. I am thankful for it.

Some went off to war, some to building careers and families. We suffered the loss of some dear friends to this world but not our hearts. We stayed in touch with many as we went our separate ways with different life experiences but we will always have the third floor of McHugh Hall.

## Memories by Phil and Barbara (Davies) Rusciolelli '68

Not the best student, WC was a challenge for me. I started in Fr. Hanzely's biology class however, by the end of freshman year understood that being a medical anything was not in my future. Sophomore year found me in Mr. Anthony's accounting classes catching up with peers already several courses ahead of me. Even so, life at WC was not all studies.

At a salvo in freshman year I met a girl who was in Fr. Joe Sanders' Sociology class with me and life at WC took on a whole new dimension. There were dances, a place called Moxie's, picnics, Gambol, enjoying friends and family and just being together. We had wonderful teachers, and Jesuit priests who married us, our children, and baptized our children and grandchildren. 50 years later we look back and ask where did the time go. This weekend we look forward to being with our WC classmates and renewing some of our college moments. Love.



## By Sharon Thomas '68

Tw'as the night before Wheeling's reunion would start,  
There were chills in my body, and warmth in my heart.

As I stood in my closet, choosing what I should wear,  
I couldn't help wondering "Who would be there?"

The memories of college rushed into my head,  
Some were with joy, and some were with dread.

The strict rules, the curfew, the Philosophy orals,  
Helped strengthen my life, helped strengthen my morals.

Oh, Jenneman, Oh, Sanders...O'Brien and Burke,  
Our Jesuits are known for making us work.

This 'little 'ole school', so lively, so strict,  
Made us what we are now, ...but who could predict?

So up to the college we all drove or flew,  
To remember the old and catch up on the new.

We all had our fears of not looking the same,  
Will YOU look at me and not know my name?

The gray hairs, the wrinkles, the BIG double chins,  
I know we all TRIED to come back looking thin!!!

When what to my wondering eyes now appears????  
WE ALL LOOKED THE SAME after so many years!!!

We're bonded together till this weekend ends,  
Enjoying our campus, enjoying our friends.

And when we go home, we MUST follow through,  
The future of Wheeling depends on all you.

You can hear me exclaim as I speak here tonight,  
May Wheeling Jesuit University be FOREVER STRONG and BRIGHT!!!



# Message from Fr. Jim O'Brien



**Fr. Jim O'Brien**

I'm grateful for your officers' invitation to be in collective contact with you in this way. Given my more than fifty privileged years at the

college/university, perhaps I can be looked upon as an honorary member of the organization! I'm dwelling presently in an assisted living facility in Baltimore with about thirty-five fellow Jesuits, available for pastoral outreach and staying in touch as best I can with Wheeling Jesuit people, especially with you, its graduates. It's clear that very many of you are feeling quite negative about the developments of the past several months. The widespread perception is that the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has taken over Wheeling Jesuit and people are not happy about the implications.

May I offer another perspective on recent proceedings? It's one, I suggest, which is less negative and more inviting of a positive participation on the part of alumni. I propose that we ought start off with a solid sense of gratitude for the generous financial support of Bishop Michael Bransfield, the head of the local diocese. He greatly desires WJU to remain in existence and he is quite explicit in stating that it do so as a Jesuit institution. No mere wishful thinking here. The amount of the diocese's contribution puts the bishop's commitment into very bold print. He views a vibrant Jesuit university in West Virginia as furthering his own notable peace/faith/justice concerns in serving the people of Appalachia.

Bishop Bransfield is widely recognized as a wise financial manager. He served for almost twenty years as the rector of the

National Basilica in Washington, D.C., exercising a central responsibility for the completion of an edifice of remarkable (and expensive) beauty. He's in Rome several times a year as the chairman of a major Vatican fundraising committee. More recently his fellow American bishops have elected him as their body's treasurer. Wheeling Jesuit is singularly blessed by the bishop's guiding us through an indebtedness we have been unable to surmount over several years. Many other small private/religious colleges have not found such a timely, knowledgeable benefactor; unfortunately, many of them will not be able to survive in the competitive currents of American higher education. Wheeling will. This is cause indeed for deep thanksgiving on our part, gratitude to God and to Bishop Bransfield.

Let me make another larger-picture point. Across the country Jesuit institutions with their own governing/ownership boards have been invited into dialogue with their local provincials in order to update their relationship and expectations amid the multitude of changed circumstances marking our times. In Wheeling's case such considerations occasioned the diocese's restructuring proposals and their acceptance by the provincial and the university's leadership. We now have only one board instead of the two originally mandated by the diocese, this mainly to insure that the property's ownership would revert to the diocese and not to the board should the Society of Jesus ever officially withdraw from this apostolate. Having the bishop or his surrogate as chair of the board now and adding five Jesuits appointed by the province office as members--formerly the membership of that second board--hopefully will provide a more focused, efficient and integrated central leadership team. I'm still seeing some pained expressions in the back row. The main problem for many of you these several months past has not been matters of structure. Rumors, sometimes outlandish ones, are generated so easily

and consultation and transparency have seemed to be in short supply. Some surprising and painful announcements have occurred along the way.

I choose not to try and argue such complaints away, other than to offer this matter-of-fact observation. The interim leadership has been focusing on economic analysis and cost-cutting, quite uncomfortable first steps for an institution in our situation. Those undertaking this hands-on phase of the operation are not expecting to win a popularity contest. What they are doing is bound to hurt. Rather than remaining stuck in an unsettling past shouldn't we be realizing that we are rapidly moving into a fresh phase of our journey?

In the not-too-distant future we will be engaging the next president and helping him/her discover the real heart of the place. We will be waiting too to greet a new diocesan leader. (Bishop Bransfield turns seventy-five in the fall, and will be tendering a letter of resignation to Pope Francis.) Besides these key personnel changes the questions soon to be dealt with by our community as a whole don't have simple and obvious answers, not for a values-related, liberal arts, religiously grounded, specifically Jesuit institution in a higher education environment turned distinctly secular. We can "go with the flow" and settle for the merely flat-earth goals which too many are looking for these days. Or we can undertake together the exciting task of standing strong as who we are, and of presenting an inviting "come and see" presence to the wider world.

Let's get on with it, I say. As for the alumni's role, here are some of the gifts I see you bringing to the table: You are by far the largest WJU-related interest group we have, and a solid source for institutional history. Outcomes is the popular evaluation tool in higher education.

## Message from Fr. Jim O'Brien (*cont.*)

How does an institution measure its success? Long term, the lives of its graduates is its most obvious criterion. WJU has an enviable record with regard to your personal, family, career and community living. "Men and women for others" is not a mere tired slogan among you. The present service leadership which marks campus culture has strong roots in the tradition you have helped foster.

--Your peer friendships are remarkable. They are beautiful in fact, especially in

times of loss and crisis. You can learn better ways of lifting each other up and celebrating such achievements in the wider community. Wheeling Jesuit will surely catch the interest of lots of folks this way, not least potential students and their families.

--You are already structurally present through alumni membership on the board of trustees, and widespread inclusion among faculty, administration, staff and via family connections over the various generations. How about enlivening these sorts of conversations and connecting more supportively with each other? More local alumni chapter gatherings is one obvious possibility.

--Finally, how about your creative 50 Year Club and your dedicated Alumni Council? These already have impressive track records. They surely are promising resources for focusing, coordinating and prioritizing an even fuller insertion into an everyday engagement with the university. My, we've covered a lot of ground here, haven't we! Hopefully this kind of conversation can become part of the upcoming Alumni Weekend. I know I'm looking forward to gathering with many of you from the reunion classes, anticipating it to be an energizing factor for the exciting, growth-producing days which lie ahead.



## Susan Keogh Foreign Service Officer (Ret) & Honorary WJU Alumna

Why did I endow a scholarship for a Wheeling Jesuit student?

My connection with Wheeling is personal, but not from birth. I was born in rural England to a British father and Dutch mother who was raised in the Far East. After completing a degree at Trinity College Dublin, I went to the Central African Republic as a teacher, where I met and married Dennis Keogh, a Wheeling Jesuit graduate (class of 1961), a former U.S. Marine, then a Foreign Service officer posted to the US Embassy in Bangui. I immigrated to the U.S. and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1970. We lived for 17 years in Africa, the U.S. and South America, with our children, Molly, Kate and Miles; we often visited Dennis' parents who lived for some years in Wheeling. In his Foreign Service career, Dennis was deeply involved in the process of bringing independence to the southern African state of Namibia. He was killed in Namibia in 1984 while head of the U.S. Liaison Office in Windhoek.

After his death, I resigned from my teaching job at George Mason University and went through the process to enter the U.S. Foreign Service myself – I wanted to continue the work Dennis had loved. I recently retired after spending 32 years in with the U.S. Department of State. My assignments included postings to India,

Quebec and Central America. I served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Eritrea; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Rights, Democracy and Labor; South Africa Desk Officer and Officer-in-Charge of South Africa over the period of the democratic transition, and at the end of my career spent four years in Peru running large law enforcement and anti-drug programs.

How did a person from a farming background in a faraway land get to represent the United States overseas? I received public school education in England. My education fees in Dublin were covered by a U.K Government bursary; a subsequent M.Phil degree from the University of Cape Town was covered by a teaching assistantship; and the Department of State paid for my M.Sc. degree from the National Defense University. In short, I benefitted from an excellent free education that enabled me to support my family and benefit from worthwhile employment opportunities.

The stellar education that Dennis received at Wheeling Jesuit University was not free, but his family was with USAID and had some ability to help him. The four years he spent studying in Wheeling were transformative and enabled him to reach for impossible goals. His strong sense of public service led him to dream of making an important difference in some way to people he did

not know. The independence agreement in Namibia, which was the culmination of his efforts, was deeply welcomed by our whole family and all those in the Foreign Service who knew about Dennis' contribution.

I wanted to give a student the same challenge and opportunity. To change lives in the spirit of Dennis' goals, and in the spirit of St Ignatius Loyola. I know that the cost of a college education is out of reach for many students and their families who could benefit in a life-changing way from the Wheeling Jesuit experience. University learning is not just about information transfer. Interaction with bright and motivated students from diverse cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds is an important part of broadening horizons for students on campus. I am also keenly aware that Wheeling Jesuit does not have the 'deep pockets' of universities with large endowments.

By contributing to scholarships, I hope to lessen the need for the University to dip into operating funds to provide financial assistance to students. I hope other students besides the ones I have supported will benefit from a similar gesture from other alumni who are in a position to make one, and that they will succeed in making the Jesuit Strong Program a solid part of the Wheeling Jesuit experience.

# Persons for Others

## Betty Jo Barnes Kinzler '61



Betty Jo went on to Fordham University to obtain a Masters degree in Social Work in 1964. Her specialty was medical and psychiatric social work. Betty has four children and four granddaughters. She retired to the mountains of Blowing Rock, NC where she enjoys featuring her artwork in an antique mall.

It was 1961 at WJU and I was inspired by Father Muldowney to follow my dreams with a promise that he would be cheering me on. This memory occupied my mind as I traveled to Nepal in 2008 with International Partners in Mission. This was an immersion trip which placed me in a remote village with a family who spoke no English, and who lived without electricity or running water. My tiny bed was made of ropes. I was escorted around the village where curious residents offered gifts of fruit to the first white face to visit there. I soon learned that Nepal was in political turmoil following a civil war that ended the Hindu monarchy. The royal family had been murdered and Maoist rebels continued to march. Our mission was to visit the Mitrata Children's Home and assess the needs of severely underprivileged children who are being given shelter, meals, a bunkbed, sporadic education and medical care. We initiated a plan for a new facility, additional staff and improved education. These goals were ultimately met.

We were invited to the school of social work near Kathmandu where I was asked to share my knowledge as a social worker from America. It became evident that my skill base paled in comparison to the overwhelming problems facing these young students such as the countless children living on the streets, the high rate of illiteracy, the caste system and child marriage. These social workers faced enormous challenges. I revisited Nepal with the Mitrata group in 2015 following the massive earthquake which killed over 9,000 people. Our goal was to deliver emergency medical supplies and to track over 100 children who were lost during the earthquake. The destruction was devastating, but miraculously all the children were located, received sponsors,

counseling and treated to shopping trips for clothes and shoes. Hopefully they will reach their full potential as productive citizens of Nepal. India is a land of contrast - beauty and grime, rich and poor, sadness and joy. Cows remain sacred and roam freely. Traffic is incomprehensible. Out of the chaos comes order! I journeyed to India five times, including three mission trips to the Diocese of Durgapur in West Bengal. This Christian compound is a child development center housing homeless and impoverished children. The center is surrounded by several slums from which needy children are sent to the hostel. Gender-based violence is prevalent and women and children are vulnerable to many forms of abuse. I met a five-year-old who was rescued after being sold by her mother in exchange for alcohol. She thrived in this Durgapur shelter and ultimately forgave her mother. The children of the slums are a study on resilience.

Participating in our mission group was Dr. Mike Sabback, a retired surgeon who conducted and performed surgeries with the assistance of older children aspiring to be doctors and nurses. Our medical team spent time in the leper colony of Purulia educating families of the afflicted, on cures, management and coping skills related to the stigma of leprosy. Other service projects in Durgapur were the construction of two schools, establishing an eye clinic, providing sewing machines to poor women seeking job training and the construction of the cathedral.

A high point of my visits to Durgapur, was the annual Thanksgiving celebration which draws hundreds of villagers from all castes for a day of prayer, performing and feasting on local food. The ceremony is characterized by colorful tribal dress and dances, sounds of music and scents of spices. The ladies



*Betty Jo & Children of Durgapur*

in our group were adorned in lovely silk sarees and were dressed by the girls from the shelter. The saree remains my favorite souvenir!

It is said that spending time in India changes you forever. This was true for me. In addition to the mission trips, we had the opportunity to see Mother Theresa's orphanage, Gandhi's burial place and the cremation ghats of Varanasi. We saw an elephant sanctuary in Maphura, and while driving on an Indian highway, we spotted a rare herd of white elephants emerging from the jungle. A close moment was encountering a large Bengal tiger as we drove through Ranthambore Forest.

I am grateful for my journeys to Nepal and India and interactions with the people who welcomed us with loving kindness. I am mindful of my WJU mentors and the Jesuit ideals that I strived to fulfill. One WJU principle that resonates with me is "sharing gifts, pursuing justice, and having concern for the poor and marginalized and caring for the individual person and respecting each person as a child of God's creations". This year in 2018, my granddaughter Maddie accompanied me to India. Hopefully, I have passed on the torch!



# Dr. Paul Orr Appreciation



*Dr. Paul Orr*

## By Dan Haller '61

Past issues of the Newsletter have featured Dr Orr's wonderful portraits of some early professors, lay and Jesuit. Who better to portray them but Paul who, like them, was "present at the creation?" He had planned to grace these pages with several more. But it is not to be. Unfortunately, Paul's eyesight is failing. Rest assured, however, his mind and unique sense of humor are still at the ready.

So, in light of his debilitating eyesight problem, we've decided to turn the tables on Paul. Hence, these "appreciations" penned by four alumni who had the good fortune to take one or several of his classes.

## By Jeanne Henry Neff '64

With fellow English majors in the early '60s I stood in awe of Fr. Laut, but as Jack Noonan puts it so eloquently, it was Paul Orr some of us imagined we might become. For one thing, like us he was transparently flawed: forgetful, a procrastinator, and a poor typist (several of us worked in shifts to help him produce the final draft of his doctoral dissertation, supplied with coffee,

carbon paper and correction fluid). For another, we knew him in his habitat: he and Jean generously included us, along with Michael, Kate, Moragh and Siobhan, in their sometimes chaotic but always loving household.

But in the classroom Paul showed us his other side as an unhurried, brilliant "close reader" of literature and the written word, even ours (source of his peculiar grading system?). He taught us that to burrow into the ambiguity of language is to be forever curious, intrigued by the many possibilities, adventurous, even romantic. More than a few of us who followed in his footsteps faced our first classes channeling Paul Orr.

I had the further good fortune to have Paul as a mentor in my early career. By 1970, enrollments had climbed as young men avoided the draft; new professors like me were hired at Wheeling College to meet that need. Paul was department chair and besides assigning the requisite composition and survey courses, he encouraged us to develop topics of interest to a restless contemporary audience. Moreover, he was always willing to talk about teaching with the same relish as for the subject taught. In that heady time, Paul and I shared some remarkable students, including Dr. Linda Mizejewski '73 and Dr. Moragh Orr Montoya '76. It was Linda and her classmates who christened him "G.O." (Great Orr).

No account of Paul, of course, would be complete without a consideration of wit. A person with that quality possesses "a natural aptitude for using words and ideas in a quick and inventive way to create humor." (Wikipedia) Synonyms include "drollery" and, especially apt in his case, "canniness," with its subversive undertone. Add Paul's particular brand of ironic wit to his careful attention to language and you get a personality feared by those in power (e.g., whenever he rose to speak in a faculty meeting). When I went over to the dark side as a dean and later academic vice-president, I worried about what that would mean for my relationship with Paul. Suffice to say that he never joined the Beowulf Men's Club in its loyal opposition to a woman in authority, but rather shared his concerns in private. And the big brick house on its hilltop in Ohio remained a welcoming refuge away from the fray.

Since then our lives have touched less frequently but the connection is never broken. When Linda and I rendezvoused in Wheeling to mark Paul's 90th birthday over his favorite ploughman's breakfast, we became, as always, receivers of the stories (about all of us, told to one another) by which over the years he has knit us together. Wot larks!





# Dr. Paul Orr Appreciation (*cont.*)

**By John Egan McAteer '61**

A member of one of Wheeling College's first classes can still recall the immediate impact Paul Orr created, particularly in his freshman English composition classes, circa 1957. He was direct, reserved, formal, and seemingly interested only in the students' academic ideas. He never permitted a student to address him as "Doctor," but always insisted he be known as "Mister Orr". Not for him the grandiloquence and self-referential allusions of Jerry Kernan, S.J., or the occasional psychological full court press launched by EG S.J. against some under-performing worthy. Paul Orr was all-academic business in the classroom, and virtually never present on any other part of the campus. He was the polar opposite of those two early Jesuit icons in nearly every respect save one; like them, he always had a wealth of information to pass on about his subject.

A prime example of Orr's wisdom and insight came during that same 1957 freshman class when the text was Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, and the discussion was about the pervasive effect some novels can have on the culture of regions, or even countries, over time. Orr asked the class whether they recalled the name of the half-submerged river boat that partially blocked the Mississippi in the novel. If memory serves, no one spoke up.

Orr then digressed briefly to point out that some critics were ready to nominate Twain's masterpiece as the "great American novel," an honor he himself was not yet willing to bestow, despite his admiration for Twain's work. Orr then answered his earlier question by noting that the shipwreck was the "Sir Walter Scott", named for the author of *Ivanhoe* and other Romantic novels. Twain believed Scott was partly responsible for the U.S. Civil War, because his imagined realm of chivalrous knights and idyllic kingdoms provided the South a myth which it could and did adopt to defend its disastrous insurrection. Heady stuff for West Virginia rustics.

The most startling aspect of Paul Orr's classroom presentation for many of us however, to experience, most for the first time, a dry and understated sense of humor. It must be recalled that in this time of the infancy of television, the overwhelming number of comedic entertainers that any of us knew were comics - boisterous, yuk-it-up, rubber-faced Falstaffian fellows, like Jerry Lewis and Jackie Gleason. Paul's subtle, oblique remarks were delivered with a mild verbal flourish and a slight smile: "Wait, wait! What did he just say?" Rimshot. Welcome to the civilized world.

**By Jack Noonan**

I've known Paul Orr for sixty years. It is not only impossible to think about Wheeling College without thinking about him, it is impossible to think about my life without Paul in it. Not all of the reasons are felicitous. For one thing, my papers got many more C's and C+'s than B's of any stripe, or, God knows, than A's. For another, as a fledgling English teacher, I tried for a year or two to

imitate his runic marking system, finding no more success than he had getting students to understand it.

I remember painfully the day 55 years ago when my best undergraduate writer asked me, unsmilingly, to explain the difference between the B++ I had just given him and a still-hypothetical A minus minus. I wished I had a pipe to toy with while I collected my thoughts.

I think the point about Paul Orr is that I—and maybe you—wanted to imitate him, wanted in some inchoate way to become him. Mimesis was a hot literary and philosophical concept sixty years ago, the idea that by imitating something—or someone—we could take on its—their—qualities. What time would teach us is that by imitating a person we admire we become more fully ourselves, not more fully them. Paul's grading scheme was a more idiosyncratic than essential expression of his teaching.

What was essential—and harder to imitate—was his love for us, not just because we were English majors, but because we were human beings, made in God's likeness.

It's more difficult to imitate that than his colorful marks. But if I learned anything from six decades of listening to faculty and students it's that nothing enables learning more than love does. Knowledge is important, but love is essential.

Last summer I went back to Wheeling to visit Paul Orr. I arrived on Friday, left on Sunday, and in between spent a good twenty hours in the company of this most delightful and spirited old man. When he talked about the courses he taught, his absurdly unlined face brightened, his voice deepened, and he enchanted me with edifying and witty tales about his students. It was as if they were actually present: he had conjured them, not just the oft-celebrated ones—Kevin Kerrane, J. L. Lyons, Jeanne Neff—but the rest of us.

Paul is a nonagenarian now, and he has something else to teach. Though nearly blind, he reads as avidly as ever. Though unsteady on his feet, he performs in plays. He has written wonderful profiles on the founding faculty. He taught literature for more than sixty years. About the only thing he hasn't done with the English language, as far as I know, is to print it with a letter press, though I'm not sure he hasn't.

Give yourself to what you love, he seems to be saying now, as he did with Michael and Jean, as he does with Shibhon and Moira, as he did with his hundreds of students, as he does with his beloved Canadian and British Literature.

There's another instructive paradox here: by giving ourselves, we become ourselves.

Bravo Paul.



# Dr. Paul Orr Appreciation (*cont.*)

By Linda Mizejewski '73

When I got my first paper back from Paul Orr in my first course with him in 1970, I found—where I would have expected to find a grade—a long scrawled line of pluses and minuses after an even more tortuously-written icon that I guessed was an “A” but which also looked somewhat like a “D.” I squinted at it for a while and then took the paper up to him at the end of the class and asked if it was an A or a D. “Oh, it’s a D,” he said, “or rather, it’s a D+++++ - - - - . Promising.” He explained that the paper contained one good idea, which was actually pretty imaginative but had only a vague relationship to all the generalizations that followed.

I was stunned, being the good honors student who had never gotten anything less than an A- on any English class assignment. It was the turning point of my life as a writer, and I eventually became an English teacher with a special eye toward the smart kids who thought they knew how to write. For my cohort—the English majors who graduated in 1973—Paul was The Great Orr, or more informally, G.O., and our in-group sign for talking about him was to raise our hands, palms out, close to our heads like those illustrations in Catholic storybooks showing saints who have just seen an apparition. Paul was the Great Orr because he was the smartest, wisest, and most mystifying person we’d ever met—mystifying because his classes usually left us with questions and puzzles instead of answers. My notes for Fr. Laut’s classes were outlines with topic sentences. My notes for Paul’s classes were full of arrows, spirals, exclamation marks, sideways notations, and pictograms. He was teaching us how to think, and his methods were unorthodox. One day he brought in an essay on the Winnie-the-Pooh theory of how to read novels. I’m not sure if this was something he found or something he made up himself, but he read and explained it to us for about fifteen minutes before he stopped and said, “Are you really going to let me go on and on with this bloody nonsense?” We raised our palms in apparition mode.

Paul’s angle was that if you committed to be an English major, you were signing up for the whole package, which involved performing, reciting, packing up for field trips, and driving out to an annual picnic at his house in the countryside, where you might convince an Orr daughter to take you up to the roof for unparalleled views of Belmont county. On Saturday nights, Paul organized one-act play readings in Swint Hall and shamelessly coerced us to read or even write them. I

still have a mimeographed flyer advertising a double bill for “A Bedroom Farce” by Sean O’Casey and “A Dormitory Melodrama” by Linda Mizejewski, which was apparently my debut and swan song as a playwright. Paul also organized readings by the HOUCHSAC society, his slapdash troupe of readers and performers. HOUCHSAC stood for something ludicrous, like Haphazardly Organized Unruly Cabaret Hedonists Stumping at Comedy. My souvenir flyer advertises a program that includes a scene from Tennessee Williams, some sonnets, and mystery selections with titles like “Desolation and Recovery,” “To Russia, with Love,” and “The Lowbrow Businessman and the Noble Young Lady.” Some of these were skits Paul wrote himself, presaging his later work performing and writing for the Towngate Theater.

But Paul’s most ambitious annual activity was the September pilgrimage to the Shakespeare plays in Stratford, Canada, which involved organizing us into a flotilla of cars, booking twenty undergrads into rooms at quirky boarding house, and then having us stand in theater lines at dawn so we could get tickets to see three plays in 48 hours. It was a wily strategy for getting us to enroll in Shakespeare and drama courses back at the college, and for many of us, it was our first experience seeing professional theater.

As it turned out, Paul’s comments on my undergraduate writing were just the beginning of a long and productive mentorship. When I was a senior, he invited me to join him and the other English Dept. faculty at the annual literary conference at Jackson’s Mill, West Virginia, where—terrified but also elated—I delivered to a roomful of very kind professors my first conference paper, which I’d written for Paul’s British poetry course.

Paul eventually became my department chair when he hired me as an assistant professor in 1980, advising me through my first tenure-track position. benefited, too, from a trickle-down effect of his influence because the other professor at Wheeling College who had a lifelong impact on me was Jeanne Neff, who had been Paul’s star student a decade earlier. Between Paul and Jeanne, I learned how to do critical reading and how to teach. And Jeanne was, by 1980, my dean at Wheeling College. Decades later, here at Ohio State, I’m still teaching, trying to pay forward what I was given by these two. I love the 2016 photo of the three of us in the Wheeling sunshine. I like to imagine the light on our heads is the shared glow of being in the presence of The Great Orr.

# Zac Bruney--New Head Football Coach at WJU



***Coach Zac Bruney with his wife, Amber, and their twins, Decker and Quinn.***

Martins Ferry native and football standout, Zac Bruney, is the head coach of WJU newly founded football program. Bruney comes from a family with a storied football legacy. His father, Dave Bruney, has been the head coach at Martins Ferry High School since 1979, and is a member of the Ohio High School Football Coaches' Association Hall of Fame. His late uncle, Fred Bruney, played at The Ohio State University in the 1950s and went onto a successful career as a player and coach in the NFL.

A 2004 graduate of the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio, Bruney was a quarterback for the Purple Raiders. The team captured the 2001 and 2002 NCAA DIII National Championship. His team also finished as the 2003 National runner-up and 2004 National Semi-finalist. As a starter at quarterback, he led Mount Union to a 27-1 record. He also was a finalist for the Gagliardi Award as the Most Outstanding Player in Division III and an All-American as a Sr. Following graduation, Bruney became an assistant coach at his alma mater for two years,

before becoming a graduate assistant coach with the University of Toledo. There he worked with both Quarterbacks and Wide Receivers. Bruney returned to Mount Union in 2009 to become the Purple Raiders offensive coordinator. From 2009-2012, the program racked up a 43-3 record, captured three OAC championships and were the NCAA DIII National runners-up three times. In 2013, Bruney became an assistant coach at Ohio Dominican University (ODU) and since 2015 had served as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator. During his four years at ODU, the Panthers amassed a 36-10 record, captured the 2013 GLIAC championship, won the 2014 GLIAC South championship and were an NCAA DII Regional finalist.

"Zac has great drive and the initiative, which will be necessary to grow our football program. But, more importantly, he is committed to developing young men to excel academically, socially, and spiritually in the true spirit of our mission. I know Zac will produce young men who will be successful on the field and in life. All of us at Wheeling Jesuit are happy to welcome Zac to the WJU family and we are glad we could bring him and his family back home to the Ohio Valley," said University President Dr. Debra Townsley.

Bruney said Wheeling Jesuit is a great place, because of the great people who are a part of the university. "I'm truly honored and humbled at the trust the

leadership has given to me to start our football program," he said. "This area is home for me. This is where I was born, where I was raised and where I grew up. This job – this program getting its start is always something I've kept an eye on from afar. Timing is everything, and for my wife and I, and our two young children, the timing is perfect. Now, it's time to go to work."

Bruney noted, "College head coaching opportunities are fleeting – they are rare. And the rarest of opportunities, is starting and building a program from the ground up – this is probably the toughest. So, we have a daunting task ahead of us. I want to thank President Townsley, Dr. Dentino, and every member of the search committee that were a part of this process – It was a detailed and highly structured process, which means it was done the right way." The search committee was made up of WJU coaches, administrators, faculty and staff, along with representatives of the Cardinal Athletic Club, spent three days interviewing candidates for the football coaching position.

So far 67 high school seniors have signed with WJU. A list of signees, their planned academic majors and videos of their football skills is available at <http://wjucardinals.com/news/2018/2/7/cardinals-football-announces-inaugural-signing-day.aspx>. There are some excellent athletes in the group.

Cardinal football will begin with an exhibition schedule in 2018-19 while building the capacity to play a full season during the 2019- 2020 season. Wheeling Jesuit is a member of the Mountain East Conference. The 50 Year Club welcomes Coach Bruney and his family to WJU.





## Lifetime Giving First 10 classes over 7.77 Million

Class of 1959	\$986,860.91	Class of 1960	\$779,010.33
Class of 1961	\$1,020,834.47	Class of 1962	\$539,886.38
Class of 1963	\$923,077.23	Class of 1964	\$1,122,983.29
Class of 1965	\$332,419.70	Class of 1966	\$308,922.54
Class of 1967	\$1,260,864.08	Class of 1968	\$498,130.50
Total	\$7,772,990.43		

Thanks to our first 10 classes for their generosity.

Senior Ambassador Giving as of June 13, 2018—  
Classes can still add to this total until June 30, 2018

Matched Funds Total—\$36,700.00.

Total: \$380,249.14

1	Class	Amount	FY 18 donors	FY 17 donors	FY16 donors	Solicitable Alumni	Total Living	FY18%	FY17%	FY16 %	Avg. Gift
2	1959	\$29,080.00	7	9	11	27	30	26%	33%	41%	\$4,154
3	1960	\$85,594.21	13	18	21	38	40	34%	47%	55%	\$6,584
4	1961	\$19,660.00	23	24	33	59	55	38%	41%	56%	\$855
5	1962	\$9,986.46	12	23	22	49	53	25%	47%	45%	\$832
6	1963	\$19,095.00	26	25	28	72	75	36%	35%	39%	\$734
7	1964	\$32,900.00	18	18	37	84	85	21%	21%	44%	\$1,828
8	1965	\$4,620.00	22	23	36	90	92	24%	26%	40%	\$210
9	1966	\$7,250.00	25	23	45	89	91	28%	26%	51%	\$290
10	1967	\$34,665.00	29	45	27	88	94	33%	51%	31%	\$1,195
11	1968	\$60,038.97	30	36	33	128	130	23%	28%	26%	\$2,001
12	1969	\$15,529.50	39	49	60	162	167	24%	30%	37%	\$398
13	1970	\$10,290.00	38	31	35	161	163	24%	19%	22%	\$271
14	1971	\$2,525.00	16	17	30	132	141	11%	13%	23%	\$158
15	1972	\$5,420.00	18	28	31	126	141	14%	22%	25%	\$301
16	1973	\$4,570.00	16	24	27	112	120	14%	21%	24%	\$286
17	1974	\$2,325.00	8				111	1.00%			\$290
18		\$343,549.14	340	393	476	1417	1588	24%	28%	37%	\$2,222

## Fr. William George, S.J. - Thanks



*Fr. George (left) and Peter Goewey (right)*

Father Bill as many of us called him is leaving Wheeling and will assume the position of Senior Advisor to the President of the Gregorian University Foundation, located in Washington, DC.

Fr. Bill will join the Foundation which works to support the Pontifical Gregorian University, the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Pontifical Oriental Institute located in Rome. This consortium of academic institutions has been entrusted by the Holy See to the Society of Jesus to serve the universal Catholic Church and is at the heart of the Church's theological and ethical thinking. These institutions are building the Church as they educate lay women and men, priests and religious who will become future leaders of schools, seminaries and dioceses all over the world. The Pontifical Gregorian University was founded in 1551 by St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Fr. Bill joined the WJU Community in 2014 as Advisor to the President for Special Projects in the Office of Advancement. In 2016, he was instrumental in securing the gift that named the newly constructed recital hall in honor of the late Edouard and Simone Ziegler, two long-time University benefactors. As part of the greater Wheeling Community, Fr. Bill represented WJU as an active member of several community organizations, including the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and Serra Club.

"We wish Fr. Bill well in his new assignment," said President Debroah Townsley. "Wheeling Jesuit is forever appreciative of the impact he has made on our campus. Fr. Bill will always have a home here at Wheeling Jesuit University."

Ed Shahady '60 will always remember Fr. Bill for his trips to Florida to visit alums. His celebration of Mass in the home of alums was unique in many ways. He would begin with an explanation of the meaning of the garments worn by the priest. Before his homily he said his Father told him do not speak longer than 5 mins and he would let him know the time by lighting a cigarette if he went over 5 mins. He would invite everyone in the room no matter their religion to participate in communion. Below are some pictures taken during his visits to Florida. We will miss Fr. George and wish him well.



*From Left to Right:  
Marlene & John  
Yasinsky with  
Fr. George.*

# 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 50th anniversary of the graduation of his or her class. (2) All former members of the class who have attended at least one semester.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Committees:** Committees/task forces can be appointed by the President and/or Exec. 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 \$1.7 Million dollars to date.

**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).



*Betsy McKenna Quinn '67  
receiving 50 Year Club Diploma  
from President Dr. Townsley*