



# 50 Year Club Newsletter

Editor Ed Shahady '60 eshahady@att.net

Volume 10 Issue 1 . March 2019

## Class of 1969 Prepares for 50<sup>th</sup> - Jack Bodkin '69

### Table of Contents

1. 50th and 60th Reunions
2. President's Message
- 3-5. Memories—Class of 1969
- 6-7. Memories—Wack Family
8. Fr. Joe Sanders
9. Fr. Charles Curry
10. Appalachian Lecture
11. Aluise Endowed Scholarship
12. 50 Year Club

Several years ago, some friends from the Class of 1969 (Sandy Doherty, Mike Breen, Joe Walshe and me) started to talk about our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Only seven classmates had attended our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion and we had all been disappointed that the turnout was so terrible. We knew we only had four years to work on getting our classmates to show up for our 50<sup>th</sup> and we decided to begin collecting email addresses and building a network.

Our small group of friends had each other's email addresses and we got some others from Janet Nolan and Kelly Klubert at the Alumni Office to create a new and expanded list of contacts. In September of 2015 we sent our first email about the reunion. We reminded everyone to "save the date" for our 2019 reunion and we asked those receiving the email to provide more addresses for classmates who were "missing". Success! Our list of contacts grew, so six months later we sent another email, and then six

months later we sent another. Our network of classmates with email addresses, phone numbers and street address kept growing. Over the course of the next three years we built a list of more than one hundred and twenty good email addresses. There were still thirty or forty from our Class of 1969 with old email addresses, phone numbers that didn't work, or out of date street addresses, but with the help of Facebook and a few "degrees of separation" we found friends who had not been in contact with us or with the University in decades. It was fun to simply say "Hi" to Bill DuBois in Oregon, Russ Keil in California, Carol deMartino Boardman in Florida and Vicki Serratore Whitelaw in Maryland. The list of totally "missing" classmates kept shrinking!

In December 2018 we were only six months away from our June 2019 reunion weekend and Sandy Doherty and I knew that we needed to form an actual Reunion Committee. We needed a group with some structure to help us make phone calls, send emails, do Google searches, or write actual pen and paper letters to encourage everyone to make our 50<sup>th</sup> on June 21-23, 2019. Sandy and I "found" fifteen committee volunteers: Mike Breen, Ben Burrell, Tim Cogan, Marty Costello, Ginny Geary Laskovics, Mike Manuzak, Vince McNally, Patty Schab O'Brien, Patty Weitzel O'Neill, Nancy Pfaff, Bob Reilly, Charlie Steinbraker, Joe Walshe, John Wenstrup and Dave Winchester. We divided up our class list and each committee member was assigned about eight people to contact. Some contacts were easy. Some were awkward. Successfully locating some of the "missing" was rewarding. The failure to reach others was difficult and frustrating. Where is Cathy Wright? Where did Ron Fassig go? Joe Ravenel?

As this edition of the 50 Year Club Newsletter goes to press our Class of 1969 is on target to have the largest turnout for a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion that the University has seen to date, and maybe the largest it will ever see. If you haven't signed up yet... use the registration form you received in the mail and send it in today, or register through the University's Website at [www.wju.edu/alumni](http://www.wju.edu/alumni). **After years of preparation, the Class of '69 is ready. See you there!**

## Class of 1959 Celebrates 60th—Barbara Yeager '59

What? Sixty years! No Way. We're not that old. It was just yesterday that we met each other in the lounge for our first rainy night mixer. I remember the Dinks. Fr. Troy tried to explain why it was important that we wear them. I never bought that story, did you? But here we are...another first for the cofounder class. Let's make this reunion perfect...just the way we did everything else during our time on campus. Can't wait to see you again. Let's celebrate our four years together and let's make a new memory. Come join me for our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. It will only happen once, and we all need to be there.

## Message From President Michael Mihalyo—March 11, 2019

I am writing to provide an update on the Wheeling Jesuit University Board of Trustees special session that was held on Friday March 8. It was a difficult meeting, as trustees and administrators considered how best to bring the WJU mission forward and continue to serve our students in light of our current financial challenges.

Continued financial challenges have put our University in a position where we do not have the resources to bridge the gap between highly discounted enrollment, associated academic and athletic programming costs, and the revenue needed to support the institution's operational expenses. As a result, on Friday March 8, the Board of Trustees declared a financial exigency.

I want to clarify a complex term like financial exigency for our community. Our faculty handbook contemplates that when the University is confronting a "critical, pressing, or urgent need on the part of the University to reorder its monetary expenditures," the Board can declare a financial exigency in order to maximize our ability to improve the University's financial condition.

While we continue to actively and aggressively pursue additional funding sources, new and innovative partnerships, collaborations, and supporters, any path forward for our University must be based upon a financial model that is sustainable, allows us to provide a high-quality education to our students, and preserves the value of a WJU degree for our alumni.

Over the next few weeks, the Board and the University community will be working with state and government officials, regional and community leaders, and our University's accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission, to determine the best path forward.

Campus meetings were held Monday March 11 to provide additional information. We remain committed to sharing more information with members of our community as it becomes available. I will be sending out updates as major decision points are reached in order to keep you informed about our progress.

I recognize that WJU's financial challenges will generate concern for our students, alumni, and this campus community. I share those concerns deeply. Despite those challenges, we remain grounded in our Catholic identity and ideals. Among those ideals has always been a contemplative vision formed by hope. At this moment, we will take all necessary steps to consider how the WJU mission might be brought forward in a new way and with a sustainable model. I look forward to working with you to achieve this goal.

### March 19, 2019

As you know, the Board of Trustees recently declared financial exigency for WJU. **The intent is to allow the University time and the authority to make decisions that will lead to a sustainable financial model in service to our students. While a declaration of financial exigency is serious, it does not mean that the University is closing.** It means that the Institution is in such financial distress that extreme measures, including some program and service closures and changes, will need to be taken to ensure our goal of sustainability.

I am sure that the Board's decision came as a surprise to all of you. I know that for me it has been a journey of ongoing discovery since I began my work with you in August 2018. Initially, my focus was to work toward compliance standards with our accreditor, The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and to build upon reform efforts of previous leadership. As a result of the University's HLC preparations and the senior team's due diligence, it became clear that WJU could not effectively meet accreditation standards and that the critical financial issues which this administration inherited would have to be addressed aggressively.

Sincerely yours, Michael Mihalyo President

***A tremendous Thank You to President Mihalyo for his leadership***



**President Mihalyo**

## Memories by Ginny Geary Laskovics '69

“Make new friends and keep the old, one is silver and the other gold.” That’s a song we used to sing in Girl Scouts and that’s what I think of when I think of my days at Wheeling Jesuit – the lasting friendships that I have made.

My first contact with what was then “Wheeling College” started when my oldest brother, Mark, left for college in the fall of 1958. I was an 11-year old in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and at that time not many of my classmates had an older sibling in college. I wore my Wheeling College sweatshirt with pride, probably more places than my parents wished me to. My brother made a ton of friends and he was always bringing them to our home in Pittsburgh. On one occasion one of his friends even came without him! Another friend who visited was from Philadelphia and had even been on BANDSTAND and knew CARMEN! For all of you “bobby soxers” out there you know what I’m talking about! My brother was in the Gambol and of course each year we would drive down to Wheeling on Route 40 to attend the performance. I thought it was magical! In 1963, my brother married his college sweetheart, Judy. So you can see when I was applying to colleges, there was only one school I was going to!

My first day at Wheeling was of course a little nerve wracking, wondering who my roommate was going to be. Soon enough she arrived and the first thing she said to me was “Does this room have AC or DC current?” Darlene Forte was from Chicago and was a little concerned whether her record player would work in the hills of West Virginia! Being a Motown fan, I was not really into the Barbra Streisand albums she loved to play, but Darlene and I became good friends. She was an excellent roommate, even buying me a PGR for my birthday the following week. (For those younger alumni, that was a Pea Green Raincoat!)

Sara Tracy was a wonderful place to live our freshman year. Although we weren’t too crazy about the 10 p.m. curfew on weeknights and 12:15 a.m. on weekends, we had a ton of fun. The girls on my hall were delightful. It’s hard to believe there was only one phone for the whole floor! Mrs. Flaherty was our dorm mother and although we thought she was as old as the hills, she was endearing. If someone got sick, they were able to spend time in our infirmary. Friends wrote get-well letters and dinners were brought from the cafeteria on a big metal tray which of course we kept for sled riding. I’m sure Mr. Agostino wondered where all his trays went! Boys were always hanging around the small basketball court behind the dorm and one night when there was a panty raid, I think Mrs. Flaherty and I were the only ones who slept through it!

Sophomore and junior year took us up to the apartments on the hill. Darlene and I remained roommates sophomore year but as the school year closed, she announced she would be transferring to the University of Wisconsin. So back to finding a new roommate! Holly Lynch’s roommate left and so junior year Holly became my roommate and I moved in with her, Marylou (Mu) Carrico, Jenny Spence, Diane Nakles, and Joyce Sedney. Mu and Holly remain, truly, my very best friends to this day. Senior year found us moving into Thomas More.

We have lost nearly 40 of our classmates and some who touched my life in some way were Walt Kealy, Pat Maloy, B.J. Fitzpatrick, Diane Nakles, Sally Oliver, John Hasman and Anne Sautel. They and all the others will be missed. I have returned to Wheeling many times for our 5-year reunions. It is wonderful to see our classmates who attend and when you do come, you will “re-meet” some of the nicest and most interesting people you will ever know. They are surely our “gold” friends so be sure not to miss out!

## 54 Years in the Rearview Mirror by Joe Walshe '69—

Mom and Dad drove me to Wheeling College on a hot day in August, 1965. We were coming from the Maryland suburbs outside of Washington, DC. I hadn’t visited any of the colleges to which I applied, only talked to some of their current students. Mike Loftus told me Wheeling was a great school, I took his word for it. The drive to Wheeling took almost all day because most of it was on old Route 40. Route 70 only had a few sections open. When we finally crossed into West Virginia, the realization of being away from home for the first time and going to a college I had never seen, began to dawn on me. As we got close to Wheeling, I saw remnants of abandoned coal mines and some dilapidated buildings. I can still feel the chill that began to creep in, hoping the next decrepit site wasn’t Wheeling College. When we finally reached campus, I was relieved by the fresh new buildings, rolling green lawns and surrounding hills.

(Continued page 4)

## 54 Years in the Rearview –Joe Walshe (continued from page 3 )

The next hurdle was check-in followed by unloading, including an old steamer trunk from Sears. Smiling sophomores welcomed us and helped carry my stuff to my dorm room on second floor Campion, home for the next nine months. Saying goodbye to my parents I was wondering if it was too late to jump back in the car, return home and sign up for the University of Maryland. Just then, I heard Charlie Steinbraker yell out “Walshe” and some deprecating remarks about my character. It turned out that Charlie, who I knew from high school, was assigned a room two doors away from mine. Charlie helped save the day. Shortly after, Dave Winchester who was Charlie’s new roommate arrived. Others assigned to our small hall straggled in later, including guitar playing Bob Thornton and my new roommate Tom Tolton. Our Resident Assistant, Steve “Tiff” Bogdewic and his roommate John Oldfield introduced themselves. We got their lecture about dorm rules, hours, and limits on the pay phone at the end of the hall. They finished with how great the College was before we got there and an admonition not to screw it up.

Orientation week was a blur to me (yes, Moxie’s could have been a factor) but I remember going to Oglebay for a class dance. I heard Oglebay was a city park so my expectation was set to a low bar. We went by way of a yellow bus. Driving up a rather steep hill, we leveled off on a lovely tree lined lane that curved around emerald hills and a golf course with fairways that fell away from the road on which only mountain goats could play. I began wondering how many class cuts were allowed for each course (Charlie, Dave and I tested the limit as the months rolled on). The dance was held in a rustic log out-building with big windows overlooking piney woods. The dance was a wonderful way to begin to meet new friends that would last a lifetime.

Classes soon began, early. Freshmen seemed to get more than their fair share of 8 AM classes. But the consolation was that by 9 AM you could be in the snack bar getting a coke and a chocolate covered donut. Calories didn’t seem to accumulate as fast as they do now. If we were lucky, we still had time to get back to the dorm for a game of Tonk for a penny a point before our next class. Before we knew it, midterms were staring us in the face. I remember feeling grateful to have fallen in with friends who were fun-loving but found time to study. More than a few of us spent all-nighters cramming for those midterms. It didn’t take long to find out how counter-productive that was but as for so many things back then, we were finding our way and finding ourselves. Midterm break gave us a chance to get back to some home cooking, old friends and the security of things we had grown up with. I remember feeling really glad to be back home and a little unclear on how I felt about Wheeling. Yes, I had met some good people at College but it seemed so good to catch up with old familiar faces. However, quickly we were back at Wheeling scrambling to keep up with class material building toward Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving repeated the cycle of great home cooking and the security blanket of old friends but by the time we got back from Thanksgiving break, I began to feel a growing realization and joy that a new home and new friendships were settling in at College. It crystalized on a weekend before Christmas when several of us volunteered to cut a few trees to decorate for campus. We drove to a tree farm in the rural mountains outside Wheeling. From the top, you could see some distance across valley farms and wooded hillsides. The sunny day turned cloudy and cold and we could see the purple curtain of an approaching storm begin to drop its first snowflakes. We got back to campus with our fresh cut trees dusted with snow, ready for decorating. The comradery and beauty of it all made me realize, this feels like home now.

Christmas breaks, Easter breaks, summer breaks were always welcome but a permanent reversal had taken place. I now couldn’t wait to get back to Wheeling to see my new friends and new home. So much took place over the next four years that flew by. I am forever grateful for the life-long friends and wonderful memories that formed one of the richest tapestries of my life.

There are too many pictures, sounds and feelings to put into a few words but here are some that tumble out... the flaming hills surrounding the College in October, the winter that never seemed to stop snowing, the basketball games watching your friends fly up and down the court playing Bethany and West Liberty (George Fiala, Tom Niland and Jed O’Connell), tennis and golf at Oglebay, “studying” for finals on the hillsides of Oglebay overlooking the lakes with frisbees and footballs, concerts in the gym, Gambols, being serenaded by the Supremes (Vicki, Kathy, Marilu, Annie) from the apartment balcony, Moxies on the first day after summer break, Gordon Henderson and Denny Maceiko (RIP), weekend hikes to the water tower (coming back in the dark), 3.2 beer, Frank Larkin and John Frere harmonies, sophomore year off campus house – door had to be replaced because no one seemed to be able to keep darts on the dart board, moving neighbors’ furniture and appliances to upper floors during the spring floods, tethered together raft races down Wheeling Creek during spring high water, 5:30 AM crew practices on the Ohio river in March... Thank you one and all for the memories!

## THE WHEELING JESUIT EFFECT

### John James Wenstrup '69

In the fall of 1965, I entered Wheeling with a strong interest in mathematics and a desire to take a degree in the subject. In my Freshman Year calculus class, I ran into trouble with derivative and integration. With Father Kolb's help, I realized that my strength was in practical not theoretical mathematics. After successfully completing my Freshman Year, I changed my major to Accounting.

In my Sophomore Year, I shared a second floor Ricci apartment with seven other students. I took the Philosophy class taught by Father Freeze. The theoretical aspects of the subject were difficult to comprehend and lead to an extreme degree of frustration. By the end of the Spring Semester, I was prepared to not take the exam and fail the subject. My apartment mates encouraged me to not give up and take the final exam. After all, what did I have to lose. Thanks to their wisdom and encouragement, I passed the exam and the class. Father Freeze, as he sits in heaven, would be proud because what I learned has had a very positive impact on my personal and professional life.

During my Junior Year, I had the opportunity to meet Karen Nangle, an incoming freshman student from Delaware County, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia. Karen was studying physics, and like me, ran into trouble with math. She changed majors to accounting and graduated in 1971. We dated throughout her college years and, in the Spring 1971, I proposed. She said no. I continued to court her and, in 1973, we were married in her parish church. Karen, a Certified Government Financial Manager, has retired after a fulfilling career with the Federal Government.

The Jesuitical influence has been evident throughout my career. After Wheeling, I had a very successful career with the General Accounting Office (GAO), now the Government Accountability Office. While doing an internal agency audit, I met with GAO technical services to arrange for the computer audit of the payroll system. At the end of the meeting, my opposite number asked if I had a Jesuit education. I said I was educated at Wheeling College and asked why. She said it was obvious because I could think logically.

At that time, I was also studying Finance at Loyola College in Baltimore, MD. It was in my Operations Research course that I finally comprehended derivative and integration calculus, subjects which eluded me during my freshman math course at Wheeling. I earned my Master of Finance Degree in 1982. This was also the same year that our son Sean, and future WJU alumnus, was born.

After GAO, I spent 6 years as a congressional staffer working for both House and Senate Committees. In 1990, with the change in congressional leadership, I left Federal Government service and started new careers. At different times, I became a licensed real estate appraiser, interim Circuit Court Trustee, accounts payable auditor and an educator. The longest non-Government career was as an Adjunct Professor of Accounting and Finance teaching undergraduate and graduate courses at three Maryland Colleges/Universities and Delaware Tech. Again, the Jesuitical influence was there.

One evening while preparing for Strayer University accounting class, my Dean asked me to teach an ethics class. I explained that I never took a college course. The Dean assured that this was not a problem because I had a Jesuit education. The Ethics class was such a success that one of my students, who was opening a Strayer University campus in North Carolina, wanted me to teach there. A move was not in the cards, so I declined.

In the late 1990s, our son Sean, who was a regular at alumni reunions, told us that he planned to earn his Engineering Degree at Wheeling Jesuit University (two years) and Case Western University in Cleveland (three years). He entered WJU in Fall 2000 and studied math, physics and other classes. Like his parents he had trouble with math. He then took a history class from Professor Emeritus Jack Wack, PhD. This is the same Dr. Wack who taught history during my Wheeling years. Sean changed majors and earned a Bachelor's Degree in History in 2004. He later earned a Master's Degree in History from Salisbury University (Maryland) in 2009. He and his wife now live in Maryland where he works as an archivist for the Federal Government.

Even in retirement the Jesuitical influence is still there. I serve as the Treasurer of an Assisted Living Facility for Brain Traumatized Adults. Father Kolb was right all those years ago. My strong suit was practical not theoretical mathematics. So with a tip of the hat to Frank Sinatra, I can say I did it my way.

## Memories from Wack Family Tom Wack Jr. '69—

My appearance at Wheeling College (a.k.a. WJU), was in part, a fortuitous event. My father had accepted a position as a new faculty member and our family was moving to West Virginia from Cincinnati and Xavier university. I had originally expected to matriculate at Xavier. However, I looked forward to moving to a small town, small school, small classes and of course the Jesuit tradition of a liberal education steeped in the concept of social justice. The phenomenon of our family connection with my father teaching literature and uncle John history, held the promise of an interesting matriculation in itself.

Being a “faculty brat” was certainly not unique to me or my sister Carolyn (1970). It was, and remains today a wonderful opportunity to better know and appreciate the faculty and administration. There was no inside track to be enjoyed and no pressure to excel either. I did however feel some responsibility to take advantage of the opportunity afforded me and not to be a source of embarrassment to my family. Fortunately, rigors of being a biology major including the philosophy and theology requirements, kept most of us out of trouble. Long hours in comparative anatomy and organic chemistry labs may have kept me from too many evenings “down the road” to Moxie’s or Snyder’s.

The experience of a Jesuit education and specifically at Wheeling Jesuit University, was certainly more unique for me than if I had attended an out-of-state institution as a dorm student. As a “day hop”, one had to actively work at being present for evening and weekend activities in order to more completely enjoy the experience and feel the pulse of what Wheeling College really was. The student population was varied and a wonderful mix of backgrounds.

All were generous in sharing their rooms and hall experiences with us. As I look back, it was a special time for my family to interact with faculty members. Many of them were invited to our home for various activities such as dinners, discussions, and music appreciation. I’m not sure what they thought when occasionally they had to step over a classmate or two recovering from a Thacker Comparative Anatomy Exam.

All graduates have an enduring memory of the experiences during their time, their “age of innocence“. With the ominous cloud of southeast Asia hanging on the horizon, the Jesuit experience at Wheeling College was none the less unique for me. The values espoused by my family and nurtured by those four years have shaped and motivated me through the post graduate years and beyond. As a biology major, I found that the influence of Fr. Hanzley and Betty Thacker carried me well along my post graduate training in medicine. It is not surprising that the liberal arts, as taught by Fr. Laut, Fr. O’Brien, Dr. Uncle John Wack, my father and many others, influenced and supported me possibly more than my science background. That to me, was and is the real value of a liberal arts education steeped in the traditions of Jesuit excellence.

The Wack Family is proud to have been part of that time in the life of Wheeling Jesuit University. It all still seems like it was yesterday.

**Professor Tom Wack**—The commencement of 1969 marked the fourth year of my faculty appointment at Wheeling College, so in a way I was also a ‘69er. I had come to Wheeling in 1965, after a number of years at Xavier University, primarily because I had wanted to teach at a genuine liberal arts college. Those were a thrilling four years for me, not only for the enjoyable courses I was able to teach, but for being able to associate with dedicated and enthusiastic colleagues, on both the faculty and the administration, but especially with a large number of students who were really interested in the art of learning.

I’d come to Wheeling College after hearing optimistic accounts of it from my brother John and from Paul Orr, whom I’d known since our years together at Notre Dame. At once I fell in love with the place. I found the Jesuit administration inspirational – Fathers Bill Troy, Joe Burke, Bill McGroarty, later Frank Haig. I was especially glad to be part of an English department led by Steve Laut, SJ, one of the finest teacher-scholars I’ve ever known and a good friend.

As Father Charlie Currie was to remark years later, in the 60’s and continuing into the early 70’s at Wheeling College, we were fortunate in having faculties of outstanding Jesuit and lay teachers, like Fathers Jim O’Brien, Joe Sanders, and Joe Hanzely and lay teachers such as John Wack, Dale McDowell, Paul Orr, and Rabbi Helman, to name just a few. And there were others among the administrators, such as Kitty McReady, Elieen Carpino, and Dr. Thomas.

**Continued page 7)**



## Continued from page 6-Professor Tom Wack

For me, at that time, the College was almost a family affair. My brother John was there, and two of my children were College students. My family rented a big, old house on Echo Point Circle, at the top of Chicken Neck Hill, not too far from the College, and my family had many gatherings there of colleagues and students.

My brother, my son, and I have been asked to reflect on those four years of the Class of 1969. For me, on the whole, they were happy, constructive years of teaching and learning. I got to share both in the lives of intelligent young men and women and in the growth of a unique college that was full of promise. True, we all experienced problems, such as having to work with the threat of the draft for the Vietnam War hanging over all of us and the looming risk ahead of small enrollments. But in many ways, Wheeling College in those years was close to being the ideal that we teachers felt we had been trained for, ideal teaching conditions, a responsive student body, and an administration that shared our values, both academic values and those of religious faith. There were lots of good times, like the Opening Salvoes, the Last Blasts, and the faculty get-togethers. It has been fifty long years since those days, when Wheeling College was relatively new, at a time when being young and different was risky for a liberal arts college. For me, and for many in the Class of 1969, Wheeling College was almost the fabled Camelot.

### Professor John Wack

Coming down 250 to the Ohio River in late August of 1961, I was very unsure of what faced me on the other side. I had visited Wheeling College for an interview in April, quick meetings with Jesuit administrators under the guiding hand of Fr. Joe Kennedy. It rained the whole day. A contract was offered, signed, and now I was a new faculty member. But I had little idea, that August, of what Wheeling College stood for. Newly founded. Small. Jesuit. Co-ed. What I actually encountered was a more than pleasant surprise. The Jesuits were welcoming, devoted to bringing a modern version of the Jesuit curriculum to the students of West Virginia and beyond. The campus was surprisingly dynamic and growing. And the students were truly an unusual bunch, typical of the Kennedy Generation, many of them the first in their families to attempt higher education, generally trusting, eager to learn, and looking to a better future for themselves and their country – and, for that matter, the World....



**Tom Wack & John Wack**

But the next years brought changes in America which inevitably had an impact on the outlook of those students. The assassination of John Kennedy, the increasing war in Vietnam, the violent reaction of the South to the Civil Rights movement – and the extension of the Youth Revolution to specific (and sometimes divisive) areas such as women's rights, black rights, the future of native Americans. And the very beginnings of the Hippy movement, begun in the late 1950s, turning more and more young people to a radical view of their parent's generation, and fueling the movement with the first stirrings of the influence of illegal drugs and the music which celebrated this "revolution".

And then the second half of the 60s, and a major change began to trouble the campus. The government, perhaps the result of the contrast between young Kennedy and the cruder Johnson, became the enemy. Riots in the cities, and then the truly terrible period of 1967-68, urban riots, the assassinations of Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the effects of the draft plus increasing disillusion with the War in Vietnam. These things affected our campus slowly, nor did they have the crushing effect that they caused on the major universities. But Wheeling College divided, "straights" and "hippies" and the effects were felt everywhere: in the Jesuits, the lay faculty, and the students. The split was by no means a complete one, many a student saw him or her self as both a radical and as a serious student. To be sure, the split was most evident in the majors: Science and Business majors tended to be focused on their careers, while the Arts students (and faculty) were more concerned with the events that rocked the country and the campus. The victim of the change which most disturbed me was the effect it had on those like Fr. McGroarty, unable and unwilling to change, firm believers in the tradition of *in loco parentis*, but also among those who loved Wheeling College without reserve.

And there I was, now over 30 and not to be trusted, with a brother who was Dean (and by definition resistant to real change), plus a niece and a nephew who were caught up in all of this, and like many others (and like me!) uncertain as to what to believe, what course to follow. And so Wheeling College was changed and was never to go back to the Kennedy roots. And, I think, not then, during the 60s, but later, as the 70s came, we lost our way a bit. Financial problems, loss of student recruits, new majors not much interested in the Core Curriculum or the Jesuit version of the Liberal Arts. But I still remember the 60s with great fondness: good students, the best of the Jesuits (Laut, the O'Briens, Haig and many others), and a real sense of intellectual excitement. A time which changed America – and which changed each of us.

## Remembering our beloved friend Father Joe Sanders, S.J., Professor, Wheeling Jesuit University

By Phil Rusciolelli '68

Born June 19, 1930 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Fr. Joseph P. Sanders was the second of two sons born to Joseph and Rose Sanders. His early Catholic education, fostered by his parents and a Jesuit uncle, led Joe to a fulfilled life of service to the Society of Jesus, the church and many Wheeling Jesuit students. Even so, Father Joe did not early on recognize the priesthood as his vocation. As his brother Ed related, when Ed, also a Jesuit, entered the seminary at Wernersville, Pennsylvania in 1946, Joe told Ed he would always have Joe's home to come to when Ed became a priest. However, Ed recalled a few years later that Joe came to the seminary with some wonderful news, that he had decided to join the seminary and the Society of Jesus but, he demurred that he would therefore not have a home for Ed to visit.

Following his novitiate at Wernersville and receipt of Undergraduate and Master of Arts Degrees and Licentiate in Philosophy at Bellarmine College, Father Joe was ordained into the Society of Jesus on June 1, 1961. After receiving his Masters in Sociology at St. Louis University, Father joined the Wheeling Jesuit College staff for three years, teaching Sociology. And, upon completing his doctorate studies at Boston College, he returned to Wheeling Jesuit in 1973, where he headed the Sociology Department for the next 26 years.

Barbara and I went to Wheeling College in the fall of 1964, had our introduction to Father Joe and began a blossoming love affair in Father's Sociology class. His wit, twist on Margaret Meade and eye-opening instruction in word derivations always made for an interesting and enjoyable class. He became a friend and favorite teacher, impacting both our educational and spiritual lives. It wasn't a wonder that, when we got engaged and upon graduation, we asked Father Joe to marry us.

Affectionately known to our entire family as Father Joe, he baptized and married our daughters and baptized our grandchildren. He became close to our extended family, marrying and baptizing many relatives. In 1993, I had the honor to do the presentation honoring Father as he received the coveted Reverend Clifford M. Lewis S.J. award, the highest recognition given by our Alumni Association. Father Joe was never a stranger visiting us and saying mass in the many places and homes where we were stationed and lived while in the military. In 1995 he even accompanied my mother and traveled to visit us in Greece. In 2011, we organized a family gala celebration for Father Joe's Golden Anniversary.

Our daughters put together a photo album commemorating his many years of love and service to our family. And in 2013, when we dedicated our new St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Leesburg, Virginia, Barbara and I, rededicated, in Honor of Father Joseph P. Sanders S.J., the Church Baptismal Font, where Father had baptized our seven grandchildren. We often said he was our guardian angel, never refusing when we called.

In retirement, Father continued to serve. Living for many years at the Jesuit Home in Wernersville, then Manresa Hall in Philadelphia along with his brother Ed, he remained active serving those communities, saying masses and being, as our family knew him, "A Priest for the People". Our family and many others will miss Father Joe, and his wonderful smile. We visited him many times at Manresa Hall, and on one St. Patrick's Day, Father Joe, (picture) in his inimitable manner, wanted to show his Irish. God love him and keep him, may he rest in peace, Amen.



**Father Joe Sanders, S.J.**



## Remembering Fr. Charles Curry by Jeanne Henry Neff '64

When I returned to Wheeling College as an English professor in 1970, Fr. Frank Haig was nearing the end of a challenging presidency. His support of the war in Viet Nam was not shared by most faculty and students and finances were shaky. Then in 1972 Charles L. Currie, S.J.--youthful, charismatic, politically liberal--was appointed president and the campus erupted in hopeful celebration.

Almost immediately, though, deepening financial woes led to layoffs and salary freezes, testing that rapport. In 1974, newly tenured, I was elected to deliver to the president an informal collective bargaining petition signed by a large majority of the faculty. Fr. Currie immediately set to work with faculty leaders to craft a three-year plan for salary increases. He also asked me to become director of student advising, effectively bringing the opposition under the administrative tent.

Fr. Troy's vision of an academically rigorous, traditional liberal arts college drew my generation to Wheeling but began to lose its cachet in the mid-'70s. In response, Fr. Currie began a process of change that was visionary in its own right. Title III (Developing Institutions) grants were intended to put struggling colleges on the road to sustainability; recipients were often from the lower tiers of higher education and many became dependent on the Federal dole. Fr. Currie, however, saw an opportunity to develop Wheeling as a comprehensive college, adding career-directed majors while maintaining a solid liberal arts core. Further, the College would exit Title III at the conclusion of the grant. In 1976 Wheeling was awarded \$1.5 million over five years (roughly \$6.8 million in today's dollars).

The Title III grant added programs such as criminal justice, computer science and respiratory therapy, established a fledgling IT unit and required that the College develop a process for strategic planning and assessment. When in 1977 the first grant director departed because of illness, Academic Dean Dan Felicetti and Fr. Currie invited me to assume those duties with the title of Assistant Dean. That meant responsibility not only for the new initiatives but also for grant accounting--a crash course in higher education management with two "guides by the side." (Wheeling did successfully leave Title III in 1981, on schedule and in the black.)

In 1978, nominated by Fr. Currie in a national competition, I was awarded an American Council On Education Fellowship with a focus on strategic planning. At the same time I was given a broader role as Dean of Instruction, overseeing academic departments and services. And in 1979-80, when Dan Felicetti announced his resignation, Fr. Currie appointed me Acting Academic Dean. "Everyone here calls me Charlie," he said when I joined the men at my first executive staff meeting.

Then comes the drama. I was not only young and female but also a divorced single parent when the national search for an academic vice-president was launched. Most of the faculty had been my colleagues and a few had been my teachers as well. Nevertheless, when the search committee announced three finalists I was among them. After campus interviews and consultation with the Jesuit community and the Board of Directors, the time came for the president to make a decision. Both of us received anonymous hate mail opposing my candidacy. Finally, in spring 1980 Fr. Currie announced my appointment as Academic Vice-President and the first woman chief academic officer in the Jesuit network. The message of equal opportunity was loud and clear.

After he left Wheeling, Charlie maintained a warm relationship with me and my family, including Ed's daughter Carrie when she was a graduate student at Georgetown. He provided a strong reference when I pursued a provost position and cheered when I became a president. During his time as the AJCU executive I was often in D.C. and we would talk shop over a meal. In a role that can easily be simply bureaucratic, he chose once again to be an agent of change: JesuitNET and Jesuit Worldwide Learning stand as his singular achievements. Others will write of his commitment to social justice and compassion for the underserved. I will remember him as my courageous mentor and champion. RIP, Charlie.

## 2018 Appalachian Lecture

### Scientific/Technical and Moral Aspects of Climate Change by John Glaser '66

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has called fellow Christians to become “Custodians of Creation” and offered the religious case for undertaking a strong focus on climate change. His dire warning relating the catastrophic consequences of global climate change argued that respect for the “beauty of nature and the grandeur of the cosmos” is a basic Christian value. Failure to care for the planet leads to apocalyptic consequences. The pope also said that we must “Safeguard Creation because if we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us! Never forget this!” The pope declared “Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.” He reflected that humanity’s destruction of the planet is a sinful act, a form of self-idolatry.

Climate is the average weather experienced at a given point on the globe at a specific time of the year and has shown a long periodicity typically 30 years. Weather can change significantly from day to day but generally the climate is expected to remain relatively constant. If climate doesn’t remain constant then we call it climate change. The key question driving this consideration is *what is significant change?* The answer depends on an understanding of the underlying level of climate variability. It is critical to understand the difference between climate change and climate variability.

Climate change is an alteration of global or regional climate patterns. In particular, a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels. It is “change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns when that change lasts for an extended period of time.” The change in climate refers to a variability, found in average weather conditions or average change across a longer time period.

Factors such as greenhouse gases, biotic processes, variations in solar radiation received by Earth, plate tectonics, and volcanic eruptions contribute to climate change. Global warming refers to human activities that have been attributed as significant contributors to recent climate change. A greenhouse effect is found where energy enters often as light and absorbed as heat thereby increasing the heat within the system. The causative agent(s) involved in this process are referred to as greenhouse gases (GHGs).

Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons and tropospheric ozone are recognized as GHGs for their roles as absorbers of infrared radiation which is part of sunlight leading to a retention of solar heat. Temperature is a measure of the average energy of molecular motion in a sample of matter. The sum of molecular motions’ energies is referred to as the “thermal energy” of the sample. The increased concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere leads to a greater absorption of energy in the infrared portion of the solar spectrum. The absorbed energy manifests itself through the greater amount of heat contained in the atmosphere which affects the weather systems.

The effects of climate change are far reaching ranging from significant changes to the weather patterns, leading to drought in some areas whereas others must contend with floods and the effects of sea rise. It has been established through medical studies that climate change will strongly affect human health and disease. These effects are expected to be accentuated in high population centers and areas where health care is not sufficient for the need.

It is important for each Christian to prayerfully consider the information concerning climate change and develop an understanding of its consequences. Each of us must come to terms about our contribution to society’s understanding and reaction to the risks and threats accompanying this global phenomenon. We can begin to develop a knowledge base from a 2014 publication: *Climate Change: Evidence and Choices* of the US National Academy of Science and the Royal Society of London to direct our inquiry.

## **The Aluise Endowed Scholarship at Wheeling Jesuit – *The Gift That Keeps on Giving! By John Aluise '64***

In 2009, my father Joseph and I established a scholarship at Wheeling Jesuit to offer financial assistance to graduates of our high school, St. Joseph High School in Huntington, WV., who choose to attend Wheeling Jesuit. The scholarship became effective in 2010. A longtime resident of Huntington, Joseph Aluise said that 22 members of his family have graduated from St. Joseph's. His parents came to America in 1914 and he was one of 10 children. Nine were born in the United States and most settled in the Huntington region. Beginning in the 1930's twenty-two Aluise family members attended St. Joseph High.



"Because we have a longstanding relationship with St. Joseph's, we wanted to do something appropriate to benefit our parish and school in a unique way," explained John Aluise, a retired professor from the University of North Carolina and a 1964 graduate of Wheeling Jesuit. "For those of us who had an opportunity to earn our education at WJU, we received far more than a typical college education. We received an education in values

In 2010, I designated my annual donation to Wheeling Jesuit, along with contributions from my father, to create a yearly fund for one or two annual scholarships from St. Joseph graduates. As of this academic year, 2018-19, the Aluise Family Scholarship has provided financial assistance to five students. I plan to continue to designate my annual donations to these scholarships to St. Joseph graduates. If there are no St. Joseph graduates available, then we could provide assistance to a Huntington area student who will be attending Wheeling Jesuit..

When my father died, in 2011, we created an Endowed Scholarship Fund. The first contribution to the endowed fund was made from my father's estate. I have included another contribution to the fund in my estate. The endowment will ensure that the Aluise Family Scholarship will provide financial assistance for St. Joseph graduates who attend Wheeling Jesuit throughout the future.

During my years at Wheeling College, I formed many relationships that have endured throughout my life; two in particular are worthy of mention. Mary Moore, formerly Mary McGuire, married my college roommate John Gasiorowski. Mary and John and Barbara, my wife, and I formed an inseparable bond beginning early in our married lives, which brought us many heartfelt experiences. I treasure my relationship with Mary, who is an integral part of our family life.

I met Ed Shahady, at our first 5 year reunion. Ed was a family physician in Akron, OH. He became our family doctor, delivering our three children, and a professional colleague, as we worked together for over 20 years in the field of Academic Family Medicine. Thanks to Wheeling College, Barbara and I have a deep and abiding friendship with Ed and his family.

In addition to these two remarkable individuals, beginning as an undergraduate, I formed many close relationships with fellow classmates, other students and alumni of Wheeling Jesuit over the years. Attending our five year reunions was instrumental in sustaining lasting friendships. Wheeling College/Jesuit deserves another accolade for maintaining these annual gatherings as a means of keeping their family of alumni together.

In business, if you really want to satisfy your consumer by offering more than you promise. Wheeling Jesuit University offers more than just a college education, it delivers an opportunity to mature. I'm pleased to be able to assist others to have the chance I did in college.

The essence of Stewardship is the act of giving your time, talents and treasure in support of individuals in need, and organizations that serve the common good. I have offered my time, talent and treasure in a variety of ways, always finding that each opportunity to give of myself provided me with a genuine feeling of value and worth. As a 50 Year Club member of Wheeling Jesuit, I can think of no better way to demonstrate my Stewardship than to share my "treasure" with an institution that was instrumental in my personal and professional growth. In the spirit of Stewardship, I challenge the other members of the 50 year club to consider creating an Endowed Scholarship as an expression of their gratitude for Wheeling Jesuit's influence in their life.

## 50 Year Club

**Club Officers** The following are Club Officers and board members serving June 2017- June 2019. President-John Glaser '66, 1st Vice President-Al Reed '60, 2nd Vice President-Don Mercer '60, Secretary-, Lillian Gangwere Cale '66, Past Presidents Dan Haller '61. Ed Shahady '60. 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., Phil Rusciollelli '68

### 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 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 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 \$2 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 on campus in 2011, Joan Doverspike Davison, Ph.D. '78 in 2012, Dick Riley, Ph.D. '84 in 2013, The Honorable James Smith '64 in 2014, Christina Richey, Ph.D. '04 in 2015, and John Stopper '75 in 2016. The Alumni Scholar Program has been very successful and demonstrates the quality of WJU graduates to the students and faculty of WJU. Anyone interested in this program is invited to submit their resume to [eshahady@att.net](mailto:eshahady@att.net).



**Barbara Davies Rusciollelli '68 receiving 50 Year Club Diploma from President Debra Townsley**