



50 Year Club Newsletter

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Class of 69 to Receive 50 Year Diplomas by Jack Bodkin '69

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All are welcome to join the Class of 1969 as they reunite in Troy Theater at 5 PM on Friday, June 21 to receive their 50 Year Club Diplomas and become members of the 50 Year Club. Jack Bodkin and Patty Weitzel-O'Neill will moderate the event. President Michael Mihalyo will address the class and present diplomas to the new 50 Year Club members. Immediately following the ceremony President Mihalyo will host a reception in Troy Theater for all members of the 50 Year Club. At 6:30 PM the All Alumni dinner will be held in the Benedum Room. After dinner the members of the Class of 1969 and their guests will gather in the Student Center on the second floor of Swint Hall to continue their celebration.

The Class of 1969 will have the largest turnout for a 50 year reunion, thanks to the efforts of the 50 Year Class committee who personally reached out to classmates. Committee Members: Mike

Breen, Ben Burrell, Tim Cogan, Marty Costello, Ginny Geary Las-kovics, 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.

Other important activities for the class include the **50 Year Club lecture discussion** Saturday, June 22, 10:30 –11:30 AM in Troy Theater. Dr. James Howard '69 will be the speaker. Also on Saturday, 2—3:30 PM **President Mihalyo will conduct a Town Hall** in the Mount de Chantal Conservatory of Music located on the ground floor of the CET building. He will answer questions about the future of the University - Look on page 2 for the questions to be addressed.

50 Year Club Lecture Discussion—Saturday 10:30 AM

Prior to the discussion, Club president John Glaser will conduct 50 year club elections—all members are eligible to vote.

James Howard, DDS, MS (COL, USAF, Ret), Class of 1969, will present a lecture and discussion entitled "The Give and Take in Jesuit Education." Dan Haller '61 will respond to Jim's remarks. Howard graduated dental school from the University of Maryland. He then joined the US Air Force Dental Corps and spent 22 years on active duty service to our country, retiring in the rank of Colonel. Among his notable assignments, he served as the Command Dental Surgeon for the U.S. Air Force in Europe. Upon retirement, he pursued his love of teaching at Creighton Univ. School of Dentistry where he became the Sr. Associate Dean. It was in this role that his Jesuit background was influential in his approach to teaching and mentoring 2000 young professionals to always try and see God in all of their patients. This influence has been reflected in numerous comments received from many of his former students.

By his demonstrated care and compassionate approach to their formation as competent and caring dentists, the Jesuit charism of "cura personalis" was reflected in their deeper respect for the dignity of all whom they treat and interact. It was in his role as Clinic Director that he was always available to help those who needed care, no matter their financial situation. He also proctored students in life changing rotations caring for the poor in the Dominican Republic. His notable achievements earned him selection to Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit national honor society, and recognition by Creighton University as the 2017 Administrator of the Year. He is a member of his parish council, and serves as a lector. He and Joan Blandin Howard ('70) have been married for 48 years, have 5 children, and 11 grandchildren. The lifelong work of Dr. Howard in service to others, and his undying devotion to the principles of Jesuit education are a testament to his formation at Wheeling Jesuit. Dan Haller '60 will be the respondent.

Class of 1959—60th Reunion Reception

Friday, June 21 from 5-6:30 PM - Student Lounge – 2nd Floor of Swint Hall—

Town Hall Meeting with President Michael Mihalyo—June 22, 2 PM— Center for Educational Technologies Bldg—Ground Floor

Moderators: Ed Shahady '60, 50 Year Club & BOT member and Robby de Andrade '72, Vice President of Alumni Council.

The Town Hall will be an opportunity to hear President Mihalyo answer questions about the current challenges that face our University. Ed and Robby will alternate reading the following questions for the President to answer. We expect a serious discussion, but also one that is respectful and characteristic of Christian behavior.



President Mihalyo

What Academic programs will be retained?

Restructuring academic programs to better prepare our students for personal and professional success and to better align with workforce needs is needed. As a result, beginning in fall 2019, WJU will offer undergraduate degrees in the following academic programs: Business, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Nursing, Exercise Science, Respiratory Care and Education. **All existing graduate and doctoral programs have been retained** – those are MBA, MEL, ACT, MSN, Post-Master's nursing certificates, Second Degree Nursing, RN to BSN/MSN and Doctorate Physical Therapy.

What about Liberal Arts Education?

The university will soon re-craft its core curriculum to include oral and written communications, critical thinking, global perspectives and ethics, including courses in theology and philosophy. Additionally, every major will have a service learning component built in.

Why are the Jesuits separating from WJU?

Following WJU's decision to refocus our academic program to ensure the future of the university, the Society of Jesus notified us that it would no longer sponsor the university. However, WJU remains a Roman Catholic institution and will retain a Jesuit presence on campus through Campus Ministry, service activities and the Appalachian Institute. Three Jesuit priests will remain on campus. WJU's distinctive Roman Catholic identity remains. The institution will continue to offer Mass at the Chapel of Mary and Joseph. Catholic teachings on social justice will also continue at the Appalachian Institute.

Name Change our team is working diligently to name the institution. Will be announced before the start of the 2019-20 academic year.

Will there continue to be reunion events? Yes, the Alumni Director in conjunction with the alumni association will continue to host an annual reunion on campus for all who have graduated from the institution regardless of current program status.

How can I help the university? **Most important provide factual information not unsubstantiated rumors.** Alumni can also make a gift to help support University operations, scholarships and funding of the new Student Learning Center.

What is the new Student Learning Center?

Explain new emphasis on health care teaching and the Allied Health group of the 50 Year Club?

Discuss financial policy that will assure that past fiscal problems will not recur?

University/College education has changed significantly over the last decade--How is our University adapting to these changes?

How will the ongoing maintenance needs like the repairs needed for the roads be addressed?

How are new students being recruited and existing students retained?

What is the status on partnerships with WJU?

How does one respond to the question "Why attend WJU."

Memories Class of 1969

Recalling a Community: 50 Years and The Ignatian Way of Wheeling College—Patricia Weitzel-O'Neill '69

In 1965 it began with Dinks, Big Sisters, Oglebay Park, Sarah Tracy Hall, Moxies, the Water Tower, Mr. Fournier and our beloved Fr. William McGroarty, SJ, *The Church Teaches* (or the Red Book), curfews and lights out, hairdryers blowing fuses, hall phones, one dorm television, sit-down dinners, reading *Silent Spring* and Mrs. Wallace. Next we encountered Fr. Joe Sanders, SJ and what passion for social justice looks like, while Fr. Gordo Henderson, SJ reminded us about the whole person, and late night mass in Donahue with Fathers Freeze or Haig always gave us a time to look inward and engage in reflection.



Patricia Weitzel-O'Neill

So much more followed, how many remember hearing “Pity Pity” in Metaphysics with Fr. J.D. Freeze, SJ, or our encounters with Teilhard de Jardin and the challenge of Martin Buber to “walk the narrow ridge of holy insecurity” from Fr. Brockway, SJ. Our class hosted the Benedum lecture, with Betty Friedan (*The Feminine Mystique*), sponsored by Gamma Pi Epsilon (for women only). There was the Alpha, those people who played bridge, 20th St. Grill, a strange event called the Toilet Paper Drive, women not permitted to wear slacks, Ring Dance, the wonderful apartments with their verandas and senior year in Thomas Moore with first floor windows that facilitated late nights in Ohio after curfew. And every year, there was GAMBOL and Fr. Kerns, SJ – with chorus lines, *Carolina*, Pink Panthers, bright costumes and *Those Were the Days*. Senior year brought the GRE’s, thesis nightmares and senior week at Seven Springs.

It was a great 4 years, because we lived in community, with all the ups and downs, sharing many stories, joys and sorrows, while working to keep our brothers from being drafted. Vietnam was at our doorstep and Richard Nixon was president, Martin Luther King and RFK were assassinated and we began new lives beyond Wheeling in a world upside down, not so different from today. We did not realize it, but we were ready – because we had experienced a Jesuit education. The Wheeling Jesuit community, built on the foundations and teachings of St. Ignatius, created a challenging culture of critical discernment for everyone. Ignatian pedagogy permeated life, with constant examination and evaluation of all topics often late into the night. The women of Wheeling College were living out the Jesuit’s grand experiment – the first Jesuit co-ed college. The Jesuits were learning from the women of Wheeling as we critically challenged so many of the “rules” – remember the dress code, only skirts – no pants in the library – but mini-skirts were okay? Fortunately, Fr. McGroarty, SJ was converted, so by 1968 we had our own mini-movement at Wheeling and were permitted to wear pants in the evening. Today – all Jesuit institutions are celebrating the presence of women as students, faculty staff and administrators. Wheeling was the test – and the women of Wheeling, the pioneers, proved those founders of Wheeling to be men of vision. Today it is “women and men for others.” The Jesuits’ commitment to Ignatian spirituality, to Jesus, to serve, to be among the people, to seek justice and to examine the question at hand from all sides was the lived reality we experienced and this has inspired and moved many of us forward. This Catholic liberal arts foundation motivated many of us to advance and work to make a difference. Hopefully, we will continue to pay it forward by living in the spirit of St. Ignatius and Wheeling College - sharing this gift so freely shared with us, the class of '69.

Sandy (Frank) Doherty '69

There I was, age 16, a Junior in high school, traveling with my parents to visit several potential colleges in New England and then a month later to visit the same in the Southeast...who knows maybe Chicago the following month! This may have been true if talking about our two daughters, 25 years ago...but 56 years ago? The only exciting part of the process was paging through college brochures and catalogues.

The reality was that my parents met with our school Headmaster in the fall of Senior year and “they” decided what school would be best. “College Tours” were not an option. Then they sold (or “told”) me about this beautiful “new” Jesuit college in Wheeling, West Virginia. Of course, we had never been to Wheeling...or West Virginia for that matter.



Sandy (Frank) and Joyce Sedney Doherty

Memories Class of 1969 (continued from page 3—Sandy (Frank) Doherty '69)

Nine months later we pulled up to McHugh Hall and I silently wondered if this was going to be a great experience...or not. Who wouldn't want to go to a school and wear a coat & tie to class, be in at 10:30 PM, not wear jeans until Saturday, be "campused" for PDA, and drink 3.2 Beer? Pushing aside the anxiety, I settled in and four months later could not remember that thought.

In the first couple of days I realized that 23 classmates from Gonzaga were also here. The idea of going by my real name "Frank" rather than "Sandy" quickly vanished. Freshman year was sort of like a Grade 13 away from home. Most importantly, on the second day at Wheeling I met Joyce Sedney who changed her name to Doherty 50 years ago! As most of you know, I clearly married "up", much to my betterment.

The next four years at Wheeling, including a summer, were filled like most us with great memories of events, places, and mostly the people...classmates and professors with whom we shared so much...Moxies, The Alpha, Dirty _____, The Pizza Inn, Fr. Freeze and Philosophy...wow, the minute you thought you understood, you didn't, Gambol, Denny Ma-ceiko and Psychology, who after four years was amazed at how little I retained of what I had supposedly learned as a Psych major!

Here we are 50 years later coming back to those warm and comfortable memories that formed bonds that survived in our minds and hearts. The most memorable are probably best left as musings and recollections, mostly enhanced and overstated. Who would have thought that fifty years later we would still be remembering the joy of the connections ...or even had the facility to do so!

It is not the place or the school that makes the difference. I think it is us. Our reunion could be anywhere *we* would be!

Russell Keil '69

How did a high school senior from California end up at Wheeling College? It's a good story. Growing up in Marin County, a suburb of San Francisco, just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, I expected to attend Georgetown. My father arranged a lunch with a visiting Jesuit from back east. I admit I had the look and attitude that led the good father to suggest "a new campus in West Virginia might be a good fit". My father, being the product of a high school, college and post-grad Jesuit education, was not going to disagree. I didn't have a vote...

I arrived on campus, never having set foot in Wheeling, to what can only be described as cultural shock. Motown music, ties, Weeguns loafers. I didn't exactly fit in. Bill McDonald immediately nicknamed me "Surf" it could have been worse. I settled into dorm life. I think now I was too stunned to be homesick.

I was an English major. That meant Fr. Laut. I had no idea, till after graduation and I met English majors from prestigious universities, that I had experienced what was comparable to an Oxford Tutor. Sure Wheeling was a small school, but 8 students reading Chaucer in Middle English? Try to get that in a lecture hall.

When you are just outside Wheeling without a car, there aren't a lot of recreational activities available. 3.2 beer and the WWVA Jamboree were the cultural lodestones. So, we made our own. Terry Gurley in Man for All Seasons and the adventures of the Giant Bird still resonate. The tumultuous 60's did impact our campus. Civil Rights and Viet Nam were ever present. Every guy remembers his lottery number. We marched and some clung to their deferments while others like Marty Prast went for us.

In the years following my graduation I slowly came to the realization that my 4 years at Wheeling College gave me something I would not have anticipated. I graduated with the best liberal arts education imaginable. I had a respect for a region of our country that a reading of Hillbilly Elegy could not provide. Most importantly, I met Julie Breiner. Here we are 50 years later, still married, blessed with children and grandchildren.

So now I admit with pride, I attended Wheeling College Class of 1969. That Jesuit priest who suggested that a small college in West Virginia just might be a better fit for me was right.



Russ and Julie (Breiner) Keil '70

That “Wheeling Feeling”: Alumni & Friends Pay Tribute to Wheeling Jesuit University

Written in “Connections” by Deanna Howes Spiro Director of Communications Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

On Saturday, May 4, Wheeling Jesuit University (located in Wheeling, WV) [hosted its final commencement ceremony](#) as an institution affiliated with the Society of Jesus. We invited alumni and friends of the school to share memories from their time as students and/or employees, and to describe the impact that Wheeling Jesuit made on their lives.

Rev. James O’Brien, S.J. Wheeling Jesuit College (now University) was a blessed and privileged place to be for the [fifty plus years](#) I was missioned there (1962-2015). A main reason for making such a claim was what we refer to as “the Wheeling feeling.” This runs much deeper than merely an occasional emotional high; rather, it is firmly rooted, integrated and very personal. Our self-contained campus and relatively small population brought students into close contact with an ongoing line of “persons for others” among faculty, administrators and staff—lay, Jesuit and other religious.

Over the years, as I watched energized, idealized students become responsible, involved adults, I was privileged to behold a beautiful growth into their family lives and professional dedications. Their warm, loving friendships are especially manifest in times of celebration, as well as crisis and loss. They are just “there” for each other. Rev. John Coll, S.J. (one of the “first-generation” Jesuits at Wheeling), voiced the observation that perhaps our most valuable work was in providing the space for students to get to know each other and become, if you will, a second faculty for each other. Many of these people are now practicing the ways of justice, encouraged by their experience of service during their campus years, as they express solidarity with the poor and marginalized, and practice a public advocacy. In short, Wheeling Jesuit has been a great gift in the Lord for all of us and, I’d like to think, for those with whom we come in contact. I hope and will surely pray that we continue to be grateful for it as we carry that “Wheeling feeling” with us wherever we go.

Dan Haller ‘61 I am a member of the third Wheeling College / Wheeling Jesuit University graduating class: the class of 1961. I am very grateful for the education I received and, more important, the personal encouragement and support I received from a dedicated and inspiring faculty, both Jesuit and lay. It would not be an exaggeration to say that my four years at Wheeling were the most formative of my life. Yet, there were no ivy-covered walls, no famous (as yet) alumni, no sacred traditions – nothing that would remind you of an established college, nothing except an excellent faculty that opened our minds and broadened our limited horizons. Our interactions with them occurred not just in the classroom, but also in the cafeteria over meals, as well as over coffee, cards and conversation. After graduation, I was fortunate to be able to retain and benefit from continued contact with many of them over the years.

The campus in those early days consisted of three architecturally undistinguished buildings: one for classrooms, another for administration and the third for the Jesuits. However, out of necessity, the second floor of Swint Administration became a freshman male dorm while the second and third floors of Whelan, the Jesuit residence, were used to house sophomore and, later, junior men. The women lived in two houses off campus during those first few years. The lack of actual dorm facilities during my first two years saw the Jesuits turning over their Whelan residence to us and moving to an orphanage a few miles away. Every morning at 7:30, they would return to campus crammed into a Volkswagen bus that came chugging up the campus drive.

While my own accommodation in Whelan, a nice room with a bath and cross ventilation, seemed perfect at first, I was soon jolted awake one morning by a jackhammer blasting away just under our back window. Coal had been discovered on the property. Its removal soon became a major operation with heavy equipment tearing up large sections of the campus well into the evening every day. In addition to the constant roar of heavy machinery, we soon had to deal with a sea of mud. Nevertheless, the education process and our class bonding proceeded well. In all, 86 people graduated in my class. Most of us went on to graduate or professional schools at the urging and insistence of Rev. Jim Muldowney, S.J., a sociologist who, in addition to his many other endeavors, taught a seminal course on race relations in the United States that shattered so many of our complacent illusions. Our class produced one Rhodes semi-finalist, one Woodrow Wilson scholar, one White House Fellow, two foreign service officers (one of whom was killed while on a peace mission to Namibia), two medical doctors, two attorneys and numerous graduate degrees. My class was not unique—those same success stories have come out of all of the subsequent classes over the ensuing years.

(Continued on page 6)

That “Wheeling Feeling”: (continued from page 5 Dan Haller)

All this from a little Jesuit college founded by a bishop who, in the early 1950s, had invited the Jesuits to come west to Appalachia and establish a college to educate his people. And that they did so very well these many years.

Michael Galligan-Stierle, Ph.D. (President, Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities)

My years at Wheeling Jesuit University as director of campus ministry and adjunct professor in theology (1990-2001) were some of the most meaningful years of my life. Accompanying students as they grew in wisdom and grace was an honor and privilege. Developing the leadership of our students through campus ministry, the EXCEL program, academics or athletics was central and life-giving. I thoroughly enjoyed the collegueship in student affairs and the wonderful collaborations that emerged with faculty and the campus ministry staff. Whether during a noontime basketball game, the Christmas chapel concert, or Wednesday night Mass, the love of life, proclamation of the good news, and the care of the human person was central. Thanks, one and all, for journeying together. You will forever be etched in my soul.

Lou Volpe ‘70

Despite the rather challenging times in the late 1960s or, rather, because of the challenging times, Wheeling College (later Wheeling Jesuit University) proved to be for me and others a place of dialogue, discernment and possible direction for our lives. Very small and intimate in personality, the college was actually where we “lived” as well as studied; a place where we often ate with our professors; sat in the “snack bar” (how quaint a word and place it seems now with our super-everything society) discussing our philosophy, theology, chemistry and political science courses; and watched movies or heard scholarly talks in Troy Lounge. Many of us were wrestling with the rightness or wrongness of the Vietnam War; a good many of us were involved in service and the burgeoning issues of racial justice and world peace; and almost all of us were learning how to be friends and human beings on a deeper level. Surrounded by those lovely green hills in a fairly serene neighborhood, we were blessed with the gift of time and place to reflect a little more deeply and listen to that inner voice inside us—a combination of reason and intuition—which assured most of us that existence was a gift and a gift worth living well.

And on this rickety-rackety journey called “growing up,” we were blessed with faculty—lay and Jesuits alike—who impressed us with their intelligence and compassion. They accompanied us beyond the classroom, their conversations encouraging and challenging us to think and to act a little more for others. Quietly and diligently, without much fanfare, they brought home to us the importance of reading widely, writing clearly and perceptively and, most significantly, living ethically and spiritually. I still remember most of my professors’ names and faces; I still recall their kindnesses to us, even when we disagreed. They stretched themselves beyond their vocations as “academics” to reveal themselves as persons who were as alive and alert—and sometimes as agonized—as we youth ourselves. They, and this place called Wheeling College, introduced me to a certain kind of mature learning and loving which I have tried to gratefully bring to my own vocation.

Kelly Swan ‘04

There is something very powerful to be said about being educated in a place like Wheeling, WV, particularly through the lens of a Jesuit education. Wheeling Jesuit’s sense of place, in a small, Appalachian city, allowed for an intimate view of many of the issues facing post-industrial American society, including unemployment, poverty, addiction and issues surrounding the environment, race and class—but also community, innovation and creativity. The small size of the campus and surrounding community provided ample opportunities for accessible engagement in justice issues and leadership roles for students seeking to address them, in a very personal way not as easily found in larger cities.

WJU’s location drew a diverse student body, its appeal enhanced by the low cost of living in the community compared to larger urban centers, creating a campus community that was, in many ways, a microcosm of American society. All of this, experienced through the lens of a person-centered, paradigm-challenging Jesuit education, offered those of us fortunate to spend our undergraduate years at WJU, an education deeply rooted in Jesuit spirituality and Appalachian realities, forming dynamic, educated, thoughtful, faithful adults in a space known most for its challenges.

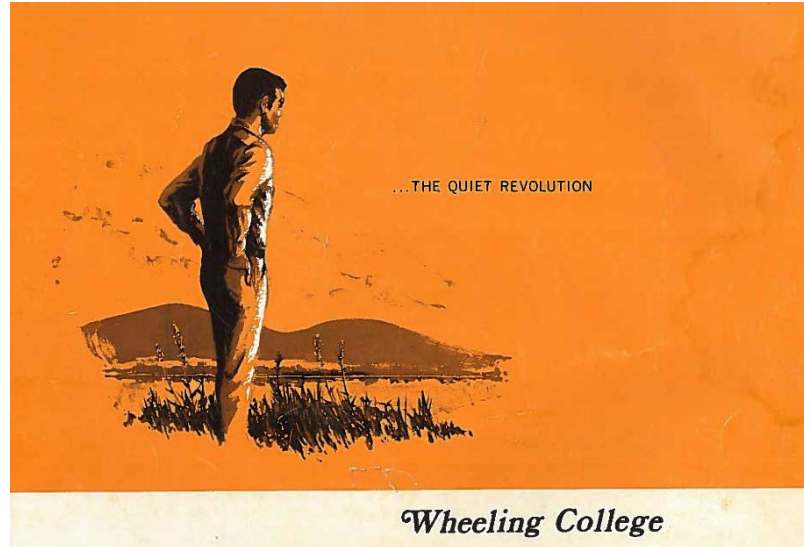
(Continued page 7)

That “Wheeling Feeling”: (continued from page 6)

Patrick S. Cassidy ‘70

I don’t know who came up with the language of describing our education as “The Quiet Revolution,” but I can attest that during those years, that’s what we all believed about the education we were receiving at Wheeling. The school was out to change the world for the better, and we were expected to learn how to do it by using, as our only weapons, “inquiring minds” and “rational judgments.”

We thought the weapons sufficient, despite the deaths just the year before of Bobby Kennedy and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., by weapons of hate. We were, the school promised, “moving liberal arts education into a new dimension of learning,” with an objective “to educate young men and women who will improve America’s social and economic vigor.”



Vince Sirianni ‘01

I am a graduate of the class of 2001 of what was once called Wheeling College, then Wheeling Jesuit College and, finally, Wheeling Jesuit University. Attending WJU remains one of the top five decisions of my life. I emerged from WJU with a strong sense of who I was and what direction I wanted my life to take. I also acquired quite the pile of lifelong friends who have since become family.

In 2013, circumstances offered me an opportunity to return and reengage with WJU. For the next 6 years I worked in the Enrollment Management and Marketing areas at a highly critical time for the University. During that time, I worked with some of the best people (staff, students, alumni, faculty, coaches) and developed deep bonds similar to those I made with my classmates. I was afforded the opportunity to lead Advent and Lenten employee prayer groups, student immersion experiences, and instruct in the school’s Honors program. I feel very blessed and grateful for my time there, working to advance the mission of the school. Specifically, being a part of the school’s Mission Priority Examen committee from 2017-2018 was one of the most life-giving and fulfilling career and spiritual experiences of my life.

In January, I flexed my Jesuit-influenced discernment muscles and determined it was time for me to move on from WJU to a new career opportunity.

In spite of all of these events, I know confidently that I, countless classmates, and many former mentors and co-workers will continue to live lives of purpose and faith influenced strongly by Ignatian values learned in Wheeling. Hopefully, this will allow us all to carry on the spirit and goodness that was WC, WJC and WJU, forever.

Tim Cogan ‘69

What I got out of Wheeling College was enormous: a very good education and lifelong connections. After graduate school, I returned to Wheeling, WV, as did a cadre that diminished one by one as most left for greener economic pastures. I still frequented the campus, eventually returned to church there, attended some sports matches (the University’s sainted volleyball team won the NCAA D-II Women’s National Tournament in 2015), and even adjuncted at the University.

We recently lost the Jesuit affiliation of our alma mater, apart from campus ministry and the Appalachian Institute. That loss is like someone died. As one teacher said, WJU beautifully integrated its service mission throughout the institution. I maintain a vestigial loyalty to “Jesuit,” keeping a scholarship there for this coming academic year. One of my dearest moments was interacting with recipients of this particular scholarship. One lived at the Mother Jones House, a home for students who chose to live together “intentionally” as a community. That program was affected by budget cuts over the years, along with programs and faculty in the liberal arts. With little basis, I hope the Jesuit connection will continue beyond 2018-19 and might, somehow, some day, be expanded.

Allied Health Initiative (Education)

At the reunion in 2018 several alumni suggested that a committee of the 50 Year Club be formed to help the University fund and develop an increased concentration in Allied Health. The group met by conference call and email several times and held a face to face meeting June 19 and 20 on campus that included several faculty.

Alumni in the group include Ed Shahady, Dan Haller, Steve Haid, John Glaser, Bill Neal, Rick Latos, and Pat Gannon. Faculty include President Michael Mihalyo, Marybeth Emmerth - Director Respiratory Therapy, Maryanne Capp - Chair Nursing & Health Science, Allen Marangoni - Director Physical Therapy, Lance Tarr - Program Director, Exercise Science, Jackie Madry-Taylor - Interim VP for Academic Affairs and Father Rich McCouch, SJ director of Appalachian Institute.

Our agenda is to discuss the future of allied health education at our University. Questions to address include

1. What additional health field training should the University consider e.g. Hospital Administration, Medical Assistants, Dental assistants, dieticians, Speech Pathology/Audiology; Optometry, Hospital Administration, Public Health—etc.
2. Given health care needs in WV/Appalachia what health fields are most needed? Do studies exist that indicate health manpower needs?
3. Should any of the current health educational programs at the University be expanded to meet the health care needs of WV/Appalachia?
4. How can alums help with funding the growth of Allied Health Education at the University?
5. Are there agencies like the Appalachian Regional Commission, Robert Wood Johnson foundation, other foundations or private donors that may provide grants to support this initiative.
6. Explore educational grants that create programs leading to greatest degree of learner retention in areas of need (NC AHEC programs could serve as an example). Would include a physical structure that provides care and training for health care providers (includes physicians and allied health professionals).
7. Other grants that build on information from Appalachian Regional Commission disease state research-focus on disease states that are very common in Appalachia with unique solutions created by University Allied health faculty and learners.
8. Collaboration with other health care organizations—like hospitals in WV that might be willing to support nursing students or other health professions scholarships if they commit to practice in that hospital for several years.
9. Collaboration with Medical schools that train students and primary care residents in geographic areas of similar interest.

As stated in Ed Shahady's Appalachian lecture "Solving the health care issues of Appalachia will require the help of a new generation of dedicated and well trained professionals willing to be "persons for others" as they attempt to better the health and lives of those they will serve".

Significant Health Care Issues in Appalachia

The Appalachian region stretches for more than 1,000 miles from New York to Mississippi. Portions of twelve states and all of West Virginia are included. A well researched and documented publication, "Creating a Culture of Health in Appalachia: Disparities and Bright Spots," published in August of 2017 imparted the following stark health information:

First, the most economically distressed portions of Appalachia are Eastern Kentucky, Southern West Virginia and Southeastern Ohio. Access to health care is minimal and mortality is greatest in these areas. Mortality (death rates are expressed as rates per 100,000 from 2008 to 2014. During this period, the leading cause of death in Appalachia was heart disease at a rate of 204 per 100,000. The rate in West Virginia was 209 per 100,000 and much higher in Eastern Kentucky at 254 per 100,000. By contrast, the national rate was 175 per 100,000.

Share Your Treasure With Your University

This is a difficult time for our Alma Mater. Several academic programs have been eliminated and budgets have been reduced. But several new programs in the Allied Health field are contemplated (see page 8). The future funding of the University will depend on a creative and forward thinking development strategy for grants and major gifts.

Gifts from alumni will also be a significant help to the University. Below is a description of Senior Ambassador giving for this giving year that ends June 30, 2019. More is needed please consider a gift to the University. The reunion is a good time to give and show your support.

Make your check payable to Wheeling Jesuit University. Send to:

Office of Advancement

Wheeling Jesuit University

316 Washington Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003 Call 800-888-ALUM (2586)

Make a gift using your credit or debit card by visiting: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/wju/> **Consider a recurring monthly gift from your credit card**

Senior Ambassador class giving through end of May 2019-compared to FY 2017-2018

Class	Living	Solicitable	FY18-19	FY18-19	Amount	Average	FY17-18	FY17-18	Amount	Average
	Grads	Grads	Donors	Giving %	FY18-19	Gift	Donors	Giving %	FY17-18	Gift
1959	30	27	4	15%	\$45,605.81	\$15,203.32	7	26.00%	\$29,080.00	\$4,154.00
1960	39	37	11	30%	\$23,001.00	\$7,670.77	13	34.00%	\$87,194.00	\$6,707.00
1961	52	52	18	35%	\$32,375.00	\$10,797.78	24	41.00%	\$19,760.00	\$824.00
1962	52	48	17	35%	\$9,740.00	\$3,252.45	14	29.00%	\$10,086.46	\$720.00
1963	74	71	13	18%	\$30,585.69	\$10,199.62	27	38.00%	\$23,345.00	\$865.00
1964	81	79	22	28%	\$45,000.00	\$15,007.43	19	24.00%	\$33,500.00	\$1,763.00
1965	92	90	12	13%	\$3,170.00	\$1,060.71	21	24.00%	\$4,620.00	\$220.00
1966	90	88	24	27%	\$8,930.00	\$2,984.76	25	26.00%	\$7,350.00	\$294.00
1967	92	86	28	33%	\$25,075.00	\$8,367.78	29	34.00%	\$34,665.00	\$1,195.00
1968	130	128	30	23%	\$26,074.26	\$8,701.50	35	27.00%	\$64,038.97	\$1,830.00
1969	166	160	46	29%	\$38,733.00	\$12,926.43	39	24.00%	\$16,379.50	\$420.00
1970	163	160	21	13%	\$5,895.00	\$1,972.04	39	24.00%	\$10,290.00	\$264.00
1971	139	131	19	15%	\$6,200.00	\$2,073.05	16	12.00%	\$2,525.00	\$158.00
1972	141	126	19	15%	\$3,530.00	\$1,183.05	20	16.00%	\$5,970.00	\$298.00
1973	120	112	21	19%	\$4,850.00	\$1,623.73	16	14.00%	\$4,570.00	\$286.00
1974	110	100	14	14%	\$11,590.00	\$3,868.05	9	9.00%	\$2,375.00	\$264.00
	1571	1495	319	23%		\$6,680.78		25.13%		\$1,266.38
				SUBTOTAL	\$320,354.76			SUBTOTAL	\$355,748.93	
				Matching Gifts				Matching Grant	\$36,700.00	
			TOTAL	FY18-19	\$320,354.76		TOTAL	FY17-18	\$392,448.93	
				07-01-18 to 05-31-19				07-01-17 to 06-30-18		

50 Year Club

Club Officers The following individuals 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 Gangwe Cale '66., Phil Rusciolelli '68.

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 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, 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 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, 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 teaching experience is invited to submit their resume to eshahady@att.net.



Barbara Davies Rusciolelli '68 receiving 50 Year Club Diploma from President Debra Townsley June 2018