



50 Year Club Newsletter

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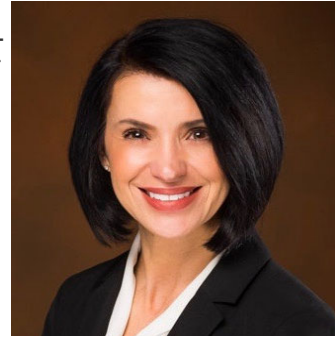
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Wheeling University Installs 13th President

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(from news@wju.edu) The Board of Trustees of Wheeling University has announced the appointment of Ginny Favede as the institution's 13th President. Board of Trustees' Vice Chair, Dr. Ed Shahady '60', noted, "We are pleased that Ms. Favede agreed to take on this role during such an important time in our institution's history. As small, private institutions continue to navigate the challenges facing higher education, many institutions are looking to business-minded leaders like Ms. Favede. We are fortunate to have her accept this position."



Ginny Favede

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the thirteenth President of Wheeling University, and to continue the positive momentum and collaborative process that our administrators, faculty, and staff have fostered throughout the Wheeling community," says Favede. "I am grateful for the confidence of Bishop Mark Brennan, and the support of the Board of Trustees. I look forward to working closely with our faculty and staff, as we lead Wheeling University into a bold new era of academic, athletic, and administrative excellence."

"I look forward to taking all I have learned throughout my career and helping the faculty, students, and staff, in the words of the University Motto – *"Luceat Lux Vestra – Let Your Light Shine"* – and provide opportunities for our students to find their place in the world and be the best they can be." Favede's appointment as President reinforces Wheeling University's ongoing commitment to providing students with a high-quality educational experience that is founded on long-standing liberal arts principles of curiosity and empathy, and on the lifelong values of an independent Catholic institution.

"I am pleased to accept the recommendation of the Board of Trustees to appoint Ginny Favede as President of Wheeling University. Ginny has been instrumental in helping the school move in a positive direction over the past ten months as a board member and then Chair of the board. As the only Catholic institution of higher learning in the state of West Virginia, we stand behind Ginny, the board, faculty, staff and students as the University works to fulfil the mission of Christ in our region," stated **Bishop Mark Brennan of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese**.

Ginny Favede was the Executive Director of the Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council, a tri-state contractor's association, as well as the Co-Chairwoman of Project Best, a construction industry labor-management organization encompassing over five hundred contractors and six thousand building trades craftsman and apprentices serving the Upper Ohio Valley region including Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Favede is a graduate of The Ohio State University, where she earned a BA in Political Science. She served as the Belmont County Commissioner for the last eight years and five years as a City of St. Clairsville Councilwoman, achieving a demonstrated record of growth, innovation and leadership.

Ginny is one of the leading champions for women in leadership in the Ohio Valley serving as a member of the OUE Women in Leadership Board. She was recognized for her commitment to those serving in the military with the "Patriot Award" and the "Freedom Award" from the Department of Defense's ESGR for her work on behalf of employees in the military service. Favede also received the Ohio Public Images Merit Award for her advocacy on behalf of children with disabilities. In 2011, Favede collaborated with BCJ&FS and the Board of BCBDD to establish the Belmont County Harmony House, a children's advocacy center, to improve the community's response to child abuse. Ginny received an Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office Award in recognition for her work on the historic Belmont County Sheriff's Residence. The Wheeling News Register named Ginny one of the "40 Under 40 Most Influential People."

Class of 60 to perform 3rd Gambol revisited at the celebration of their 60th reunion during Alumni Weekend June 26 2020-First two performed during 50th and 55th reunion celebrations.

President's December Newsletter-on line at wju.edu

There is something magical about the beautiful campus that is Wheeling University! This has been an extraordinary period for Wheeling University and the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese. Over the past few months, Wheeling University's Fall athletic teams and students have returned our campus to a vibrant place bursting with constant activity.

We have been busy rebuilding our university. As you know by now majors in biology, engineering science, and English will return to campus beginning in January. Online programs in criminal justice and psychology will also be offered starting in January. We are bringing back programs that we know have the revenue to support themselves. Several beloved Wheeling University athletic programs will be reinstated in 2020, including men's golf, men's and women's lacrosse, wrestling and men's and women's swimming. We will also introduce Competitive Cheerleading as a new sport for our student-athletes beginning in 2020, which will give our Cardinals even more opportunities to shine at the regional and national level.

To grow the university, we must be able to increase our student population and to do that we have to offer high-demand programs. Among our goals, we need to achieve undergraduate student enrollment that helps position WU for fiscal sustainability, but at the same time holds to our mission. Our efforts include aggressive marketing of our Learn Local commuter program and strengthening relationships with local community colleges. We are also working on the final edits of a 2 + 2 Program with Belmont College in Criminal Justice. I must share that we are taking an innovative approach to growth when it comes to what programs we could potentially add.

From the annual WVU Economic Outlook Symposium, we learned the four most important educational programs that will provide real-world jobs for our students include: Health Care, Social Services, Tech Program, and Engineering. Knowing these programs are intrinsically tied to the economic prosperity of our area, we are aggressively looking for funding sources that will allow us to add these programs to enhance the economy of our community. While our course offerings will continue to evolve with the needs of America's workforce, our academic core will always strive to deliver the crucial and creative lessons that enable our students to become critical thinkers, clear communicators, and creative problem-solvers.

We are currently working with both West Liberty University and Bethany College on a consortium agreement that will allow our students to take classes not offered at the respective parent institution at the two neighboring schools with no additional tuition dollars. Finally, we are working to develop a robust online program that will allow us to increase revenue at minimal costs. It should be noted that this category includes the masters and doctorate levels as well as evening and online undergraduate and certificate programs.

Rev. James Conroy, S.J., Rev. Hadi Sasmita, S.J. and Fr. McCouch continue their service to our university and students. Our name may have changed, but our longstanding values of faith, service, and kindness, as well as our commitment to providing a robust catholic education founded in the liberal arts for students of all creeds, have not.

Everything we achieve academically, athletically, financially, or administratively is all part of this collaborative process. Every idea shared, every innovative step, every proactive endeavor makes it possible for Wheeling University to grow, evolve, and thrive far into the future.

I am excited about the career and enrichment opportunities that these new and returning programs will create for everyone involved, and I look forward to working with each of you to help Wheeling University find even more victories to celebrate in the months to come.



Visit of 50 Year Club President, Phil Rusciolelli to Wheeling University.

Barbara and I cannot express how, over the past few months, we were rocked as were many Wheeling Jesuit University alumna and students by decisions and situations that negatively impacted Wheeling Jesuit University. The disassociation of the Jesuits from the university, a name change, loss of faculty and major courses of study, endowment discrepancies, diocesan and university management perturbations, and the need for accreditation certification, were of major concern. So, for us, it was imperative to get some answers and how our school was doing.

We took the opportunity to visit Wheeling University in mid-August and to meet with Janet Nolan, Coordinator Engagement, and Jeffrey Strader, Vice President and Administrative Chief Financial Officer. We also were able to introduce ourselves to the new Chairperson of the Wheeling University Board of Trustees (BOT), Ginny Favede.

This visit occurred just one week before freshmen, the Class of 2023, would begin arriving on campus for orientation. The campus was alive with activity as painting, planting and elbow grease was the order of the day. We were delighted to see the bustle of workers getting the campus prepared for the incoming students, get some news about those students, and glean from the new chairperson, a very positive prospect for our school.



Phil Rusciolelli & President Ginny Favede

Janet and Jeff informed us that the 2019-2020 student numbers were down due to the reduction in several areas of study. Estimates before final registration is for 270 graduate and professionals, and 385-390 undergraduates, including 110 freshmen. Degrees for Graduate studies include master's in business administration, education and nursing, and a doctorate program in physical therapy. While, study areas for undergraduates are in business, education, health sciences, criminal justice, and psychology.

The real highlight of our visit was our meeting with Ginny Favede. Ginny is a dedicated Wheeling University promoter. Her son who was a student at Wheeling last year had to move to another school due to the loss of courses at Wheeling. Ginny took on the challenge to lead the Board on a new road and to maintain the Catholic identity of the university. Using her strong will, developed surely as the youngest of ten children, she has already made her mark on the school. She has directed attention of West Virginia's Governor Justice to support a timetable to renew accreditation certification and is set to embark on a major capital funding program for the university.

Barbara and I were impressed with Ginny's personal concern to see Catholic Higher Education continue in West Virginia, and to hear of her strong connections with the Wheeling Catholic Community and Ohio and West Virginia leaders. We discussed ways ahead for Wheeling University and how to communicate to alumni the need to stay connected, and how to allay any damage done by previous leadership at the university and diocese to an alumni school relation. She told us of her son's dilemma, having to transfer from Wheeling Jesuit because of course eliminations in his engineering studies.

Ginny expressed her immediate concerns to understand and answer West Virginia Higher Education Commission's concerns for Wheeling Jesuit's accreditation. We noted aggressive preparations at the school in her efforts to keep the doors opened for students committed to the 2019-2020 school year. Ginny further told us she would go to the governor's office to gain support for the university, and even secured a public statement from Governor Justice in support of Wheeling University.

Needless to say, we are very pleased with Bishop Brennan's selection of Ginny to lead our school.

A mission of the 50 YEAR Club as an adjunct of the Alumni Council will be to communicate to alumni this good news and it is our hope that in the near term a letter from President Ginny to alums conveys the new hope for our school, in leadership, diocesan support, reestablished curriculum and instructors, and efforts to return Jesuit educator presence.

Many of these issues are addressed on other pages in the newsletter (editor)

Bishop Mark Brennan (Charleston Gazette 1-2020)

For better or worse — mostly for worse during the past year and a half — the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has been in the news. The media reports about former Bishop Michael Bransfield have gone national and international. Pope Francis, acting on a lay commission's report, which he requested, has forbidden Bransfield from celebrating public Masses and other liturgies and from living in the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese.

The Pope has also directed me to assist Bishop Bransfield in making personal amends for the harm he caused. I have already put much effort into this matter, and I trust that my involvement in it will soon be concluded. Nonetheless, I recognize that getting the former Bishop to make amends for his wrongdoing will not dispel the sense of betrayal and distrust of many Catholics and others. In the light of this distressing episode in our diocesan history and of the revelations of irresponsible behavior by Church officials elsewhere in our country and in the world, I am not going to offer bromides. But I would like to take this opportunity at the beginning of a new year to let West Virginia Catholics and others know of my hopes for moving forward into a new era in the life of our Wheeling-Charleston Diocese.



Bishop Mark Brennan

The laity must be fully involved in evangelization. To foster growth, we will establish this spring a Diocesan Pastoral Council, composed of lay men and women, chosen through an elective process, that will have delegates from each of the six geographical vicariates in the Diocese. This council will bring to my attention the needs of our people, and I will share with them my observations and hopes. Details on the election process will be made known in the near future.

Material resources support the religious life of our people and our evangelization efforts. We must make the diocese's financial strengths and weaknesses better known. This will involve not only the publication of the latest independent audit later this winter, but also a clear picture of the nature of diocesan resources and how they have been used. As I have been telling diocesan staff and the priests' council for a couple of months, the diocese has been living above its means. I didn't do that in my parishes nor in my personal life, nor can our families live that way. I don't think the diocese can do that either.

We have 112 parishes and missions throughout the state and 25 Catholic grade schools and high schools. Some are large and robust; others are very small and fragile. We need broad consultation and serious pastoral planning to ensure we are properly structured to carry on our Church life and our duty to evangelize through the rest of the 21st century.

I hope to see our only residential Catholic university, Wheeling University, thrive under the leadership of a new president, Ginny Favede. Wheeling Hospital carries on our centuries-old Catholic tradition of caring for the sick and should continue to be a model of Catholic health care.

These are some of the major efforts that I hope to see develop in the new year. Traveling around this beautiful Mountain State the past four months since my installation as bishop, I have experienced the hospitality of West Virginia Catholics and their deep and lively faith.

While disappointed in past leadership, these dedicated men and women — and many young people — have remained active in worship, prayer and service. This gives me confidence that a more promising future is possible, and that the Catholic faith is still relevant in bringing healing and peace, wisdom and understanding and strong support for works of justice and compassion.

The essence of the Catholic Church's mission and purpose is to bring faith and the power of God's grace to individuals, families and communities. We must stand tall and confident, not shrinking from but confronting the harsh realities that have brought us grief, but also not allowing those past failings to make us suspicious of every servant of God — clerical or lay — or to deter us from harnessing the tremendous spiritual energy of our people to do Christ's work in this state.

I believe I will see the light of Christ shining more and more brightly in West Virginia as this year unfolds and the Holy Spirit guides us forward.

“We are very fortunate to have Bishop Brennan leading the Diocese and supporting Wheeling University” (editor)

Pedro Arrupe Distinguished Alumni Award 2019

Acceptance Speech by Marilou (Gross) Doughty '77

Thank you very much for this honor. I was lucky enough to be at Wheeling College when Fr. Charlie Currie was President, Fr. Jim O'Brien taught me Philosophy and Fr. Joe Sanders taught me Sociology. I was blessed to have such wonderful priests be part of my experience.

Let me share with you a little about my journey. When I came to Wheeling College I was a psychology major but soon decided that I wanted to do social work, a degree Wheeling did not offer. So I looked around at other schools but my heart wasn't in it. I didn't want to leave Wheeling. So I worked with Professor Goodwin of the Psych department to construct an independent major that incorporated social work, psych and sociology courses. The school approved my major and I stayed at Wheeling.

I have worked in Social Work, Child Welfare in particular, my entire career. Child Protective Services is a very misunderstood field. It is very difficult work with people who are at the worst and lowest point of their lives. It is dangerous and thankless work but Child Protective Service workers tirelessly to protect kids and help families. My entire adult life, either professionally or personally, I have tried to live the Ignatian values we were taught at Wheeling. While I have failed miserably many times, it has been an important goal to strive toward in all of my relationships. Serving others has been a mainstay in my life through my job, volunteer work and work I do at my church.

At my 15-year college reunion I drove from Philly with my dear college friend, Paul Currie, who I drove out with again this weekend. He asked me in the car what was the one thing in my life that I thought had the most impact on who I was now and I answered 'going to Wheeling College.' His answer was the same for him. Wheeling gave me lifelong friends, some of whom I didn't go to school with but who I met through our alumni functions in Philly who are now my Philly alumni family. Wheeling College is more than just a school that I attended, it is part of who I am. I try to live up to that every day. Thank you Wheeling Jesuit and the alumni council for this award. It means a lot to me!

A MOST UNUSUAL MAN – BRUNO J. HARTUNG, Ph.D. by Dan Haller '61

The recent passing of Barry Kerrane '60 brought back an amusing memory of one of Dr. Hartung's classic observations. Barry and Dr. Hartung were heading along the walk toward Donahue one day as Barry's brother, Kevin '62 was heading toward them from the opposite direction. As Kevin approached, Dr. Hartung turned to Barry and made the following astute observation: "You know, Mr. Kerrane, you look enough like Mr. Kerrane there to be his brother."

Bruno Hartung's Economics classes were replete with similar examples of the good Dr.'s bungling of names. For instance, Doug Aigner became "Mr. Ainer." "It's Aigner, Dr." "Thank you, Mr. Ainer." Another classic: "Miss Cippoletti." "It's Chippoletti, Dr." "Yes, thank you, Miss Cippoletti." And so it went during his years teaching at Wheeling College.

Evidently, Dr. Hartung did not own a car. When in need of transportation, he was quick to press into service one of the commuting students he found comfortably enjoying a break between classes in the cafeteria. One particular coed, possessed of a large and comfortable Chrysler sedan, and he was the unlucky person frequently pressed into service.

He urged some of his students to take the Civil Service exam. When the not so impressive results came in, Dr. Hartung was heard to lament, "They give me the sow's ears and expect silk purses." I suspect that some of the unhappy results could easily be traced to some who took the exam thinking it would be a piece of cake.

With that in mind, they probably spent an undue amount of time the previous night at Mac's Tavern. There, in addition to the 3.2 beer available, Mr. McFadden provided a ready (and illegal) supply of small medicine bottles filled with hard liquor of dubious heritage. After a night spent consuming Mac's special offerings, one could not reasonably expect peak intellectual performance on that exam the next day.

Bruno Hartung continued to teach Economics at Wheeling until his retirement. As he was given to many digressions during class time, much of what we learned was from the excellent Economics text book he assigned for our class. It was authored by Paul Samuelson, one of the most celebrated economists of his era.

After his retirement, Bruno continued to live in Wheeling. Fr Joe Sanders remained a friend and maintained regular contact with this memorable character from our years at Wheeling College.

A G-Man's Journey Jim DeSarno '68

It seems not so long ago in time, when I left Wheeling University . . . nee Wheeling College, to start my adult life. It was, in reality, over half a century ago and a life's adventure ago. I took a prized Jesuit Liberal Arts degree, with a psychology major, from my Wheeling College family to join my career family in the finest law enforcement agency in the World – the Federal Bureau of Investigation (prejudice intended).

I started my law enforcement career as a parole and probation officer. It would take a M.A. in psychology and 8 years before I would receive an acceptance letter from the FBI. In June 1976, I graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. After 16 weeks of training, I swaggered out of Quantico with a badge, credentials and a gun to my first office of assignment.

Little did I know as I began working “first office agent skill-honing cases” such as Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicles (a federal crime) that my career would take me to a leadership role as Assistant Director. My psychology background allowed me training as a hostage negotiator and I trained other agents in that skill. I worked in five FBI field offices and various management positions. I was fortunate enough to be involved in many major cases over my career. Historically significant cases such as the Oklahoma City Bombing, the Waco, TX Branch Davidian Siege, as well as, public corruption in Louisiana and the Campaign Finance Investigation during the Clinton administration.

I grew into executive leadership roles in New Orleans, FBI Headquarters and Los Angeles. In hindsight, it was the management phase of my career that enabled me to have the most significant impact on the organization and its mission. As Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans FBI Office, I was able to set priorities based on significant threats in the territory and focus resources on those issues. In Louisiana, it was police and political corruption cases that resulted in conviction of police officers in New Orleans for crimes such as drug related, corruption and murder.

As Assistant Director in Charge of the Criminal Justice Information Services Division – the largest Division of the FBI, located in Clarksburg, WV, I was assigned to a blossoming FBI Division that was changing the way law enforcement intelligence nationwide was collected and shared. We ushered in revolutionary digital criminal and civil fingerprint identification. We also developed the National Instant Criminal Background Check Systems (NICS). This system checks available records that disqualify a person from purchasing a firearm.

In Los Angeles, I was in command of the FBI's second largest field office. The work included major domestic and international terrorism cases and many of the nation's most significant White Collar Crime cases. In 2001, I retired from the FBI, but not from a life-long relationship with the people and the organization. That connection today includes my oldest son leading the FBI Office in Dallas, TX. As I look back at my career, I am reminded of many adventures, many victories and some tragic losses along the way. It was a blessed career that I value every day and for the rest of my life.

Tim Phillips '62 – One of a Kind- An Appreciation by Dan Haller '61

What follows is a piece written by Attorney Peter Lewis, a Pittsburgh attorney who encountered Tim Phillips during his years as a law student at Washington & Lee Law School. Tim specialized in tax law, usually among the least interesting courses in most law schools. Not so in Tim's classroom at Washington & Lee. There students clamored to gain admission to the tax course taught by this brilliant, one of a kind puckish character.

Gone by this stage of his life was the usual chaw of tobacco, but his love of hillbilly music and his country origins remained. Stints at Georgetown Law and Harvard failed to take the country out of the man. But with his superb intellect he was able to delve into the U.S. Tax Code and offer his students deep insights into its operation. For those who knew Tim during his days as a student at Wheeling, that infectious laugh that was almost a cackle and his delight in puncturing pompous pronouncements remained.

The next page contains Peter Lewis' recollection of Tim as a revered law professor at Washington & Lee offers a compelling portrait of yet another of our many distinguished graduates.

Wheeling University Gaudiosa - April 18, 2020 - White Palace Wheeling Park

Supporting Scholarships—Celebrating Student Success

Our signature event, *Gaudiosa 2020*, is back and better than ever. We invite you to join in Wheeling University's largest annual fundraising event which features a cocktail reception, delicious dinner, entertainment and much more!

Remembering Tim Phillips – A Former Law Student's Perspective

By: Peter Lewis, Esq.

I was a law student at Washington & Lee University from the fall of 1982 until the spring of 1985. During my time there I got to know Tim Phillips both as my tax professor and as a person, the latter simply because he made it a point to get to know as many law students as possible. I mention all of this because I think it permits me to comment on Tim Phillips the person and Tim Phillips the law professor. I have nothing but good memories about both aspects of his personality.

The law school building at Washington & Lee itself had three floors. The first floor included the students' carrels, the vending machine area and a few classrooms. The library and most of the classrooms occupied the second floor. The third floor contained the faculty offices and the offices of the law review. When I began law school, everyone's best barometer of what they could expect from the professors was the movie *The Paper Chase*.

In our minds, every professor had the potential to be our Professor Kingfield (imperious and intimidating). The consequence of this was that first years never, and I mean never, ventured onto the third floor without a very good reason, usually a summons from one of the professors for a meeting of five minutes or so followed by hours of self-doubt and self-recrimination.

In my three years at Washington & Lee, including two years on the law review, I'm not sure I ever saw Tim Phillips on the third floor. I did see him nearly every day on the first floor, sitting in the alcove next to the vending machines, talking with students and cackling his absolutely unique laugh at something some student had just said. I don't think he did this to dispel the notion that law school professors are omnipotent and vaguely mysterious figures. He did this because he loved the law and enjoyed being with other who were like-minded. Whether we actually loved the law as much as he did was irrelevant to him. He assumed that we did because he always assumed the best in others.

His enthusiasm for the study of the law, and his sense of humor, were both reflected in his ability and popularity as a professor. After the first year of law school, class selection was by lottery, with third year students getting first choice. If a class was particularly popular, there were only two or three spots available for second year students. Tim Phillips' class on income tax never had more than three spots open for second year students.

As to his sense of humor, I can pass on the following two anecdotes.

As I mentioned, his introductory class was made up almost entirely of third year students, with only two or three lucky second year students completing the class roster. In those days, most third years would take one or their classes on a pass fail basis because they either already had a job offer or didn't want a class outside of their comfort zone to endanger their GPA. Grading at Washington & Lee was supposed to be completely anonymous but for some strange reason every third year who took his tax class on a pass fail basis got the highest grade possible. Somehow he knew who we were and took great delight at our reactions when he handed back our tests.

At the beginning of the second semester of my third year, Tim showed up to the first class as usual, grinning as he handed our tests back and watching the reactions of the pass fail students who deflated a little when they saw they had received a high grade. Unfortunately for Tim, he unknowingly arrived with his zipper at half-mast and spent the entire class the victim of a wardrobe malfunction.

He assumed he was especially funny because we spent most of the class chuckling at his jokes. Near the end of the class he realized his predicament because he commented on how breezy it was in the room as he walked out the door. The next day, and for several days thereafter, he wore a Judge's robe. His only acknowledgement of his mishap was an observation that good tax attorney can never be too careful.

One final comment: I graduated from Washington & Lee 35 years ago and I still have very vivid memories of Tim Phillips and how remarkable he was, both as a person and as a law school professor. I think that says it all.

If you would like to write something about a former professor or a classmate please send via email the information to Ed Shahady at eshahady@att.net. Microsoft word is preferred but pdf files also accepted. Include pictures if possible.

New Student Success Center at Wheeling University Sets Positive Tone for Campus Community

Wheeling University, West Virginia's only Catholic institution of higher learning, introduced a new Student Success Center as an on-campus option for students seeking solutions to academic challenges, an encouraging study environment, emotional support, or simply a place to relax during trying times. The grand opening with a special ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Monday, November 4, 2019.



The Center is focused on four primary ideas: Creating a warm, welcoming, inclusive environment for students; providing an array of academic and personal support programs; peer tutoring; and success-coaching sessions based on the needs of students.

Under the leadership of Devon Leonard, Director of Student Success, the campus community has welcomed the Student Success Center with open arms, offering support, encouragement, and creative ideas. Departments on campus have helped spread the word, and students are taking advantage of the new resource.

"I want the Student Success Center to become a 'home away from home' for students," said Leonard. "I want them to feel welcome and comfortable. I have been in their shoes, and I understand their struggles. Everyone at the Student Success Center is anxious to lend a hand to students during this transitional and important phase of their lives."

With a background in academic counseling, transfer counseling, financial aid assistance, major exploration, career counseling, and various other aspects of student support, Leonard spent much of her career working with at-risk students. She is experienced in the struggles many university students face. "I have a keen eye for identifying and overcoming student barriers," she adds.

Students, faculty, staff, and administration may each look at the Student Success Center a little differently, but Leonard embraces these different viewpoints. "I want students to think of the Student Success Center as their refuge," she said. "Faculty should think of it as a supplement to their teaching. Staff and administration should view the Student Success Center as the embodiment of the Wheeling University spirit – the kindness, openness and supportiveness that makes our campus community special."

Just recently, the Student Success Center received notice of a student struggling in all of their classes. The student was experiencing what many students go through at one time or another: They missed home and were experiencing a difficult time. After several meetings with the Student Success Center and talking through their struggles, the student developed an academic success plan. Leonard proudly says, "Wheeling University students are smart, but everyone needs a little guidance and support from time-to-time. Seeing them get back on track and overcome life's challenges, whatever they may be, that's what we are all about."

Share Your Treasure With Your University

Please consider a gift to Wheeling University. Your passion for the University, and dedicated support helps to empower students, and produce graduates who are ready to tackle the most pressing issues facing our world. Support from alumni makes this possible! Our new President, Ginny Favede, has tremendous energy and is providing significant leadership for our beloved University. She is visiting alumni to hear their thoughts and to share her vision for the future. She recently visited Washington DC, Cleveland, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Three Jesuit fathers are still at WU and there may be more in the future. Rev. James Conroy, S.J., Rev. Hadi Sasmita, S.J. and Rev. Rich McCouch, S.J. are all active members of the Wheeling University community. Fr. Sasmita is in Campus Ministry, and Fr. McCouch in the Appalachian Institute. They continue to foster the Jesuit values of service and leadership among the student body.

Liberal arts courses are a critical component of a WU education and core courses are still required in Philosophy and Theology. To quote President Favede, "You challenge us on what it means to be a Cardinal and on ways to improve as an institution as well as remind us to never be complacent – to always strive for even greater heights. You make this an exciting and dynamic place to learn, work and live. Frankly, we could not do this without you. We are so appreciative of your generosity."

Gifts can be made by mail to Wheeling University, Office of Alumni and Family Engagement, 316 Washington Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003. Gifts can also be made online at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/wju/> or by calling the office at 800-888-2586. You can choose to make a one-time donation, or break it up into convenient monthly gifts.

Donald Mercer, Ph.D. '60 Elected to Wheeling Hall of Fame

Don was a member of the second graduating class at Wheeling College in 1960. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. He was an outstanding basketball and tennis player and was elected to the Wheeling Jesuit University hall of Fame in 1994. He is a gifted musician and helped establish the WJU symphonic and pep bands. He received the WJU Distinguished Alumni Award in 2002

He received a masters degree and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. His career includes Chief Biochemist in the pathology department at Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh, Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Pittsburgh medical school, and Chief Biochemist in the Pathology Department at Allegheny General Hospital.

One of Mercer's clinical research projects was in the study of circulating isoenzymes. At the urging of Montefiore's chief cardiologist Muray Varat, he developed a more reliable test to accurately detect heart attacks. Previous blood test and EKG's were not precise and physicians were less accurate in making a diagnosis of myocardial infarction (heart attack).

In 1975 Don introduced the "CK-MB" test that resulted in near 100% accuracy and has become the global standard as a fast, accurate and simple way to diagnose a myocardial infarction (heart attack). Dr. Ed Shahady a classmate of Don's was practicing in Akron, OH at the time and recalls the significant impact of Don's discovery. "Patients would no longer be given an incorrect diagnosis, lives were saved, hospital stays were shortened, and cost of health care was reduced".

Mercer published his research in the Journal of Clinical Chemistry in 1974. News of this pioneering research spread quickly. He was given a patent in 1977, and Roche diagnostics marketed the test. During the next few years he toured the country speaking on his findings and received accolades from fellow scientists and medical professionals. He has written numerous articles, book chapters and abstracts about his research. **The 2006 book "Landmark Papers in Clinical Chemistry cites Mercer's work as one of the top 40 developments of the 20th century.** Four decades later the CK-MB test is considered the worldwide benchmark for detecting heart attacks.



Don Mercer '60

50 Year Club

Club Officers The following individuals are Club Officers and board members serving June 2019—June 2020: President-Phil Rusciolelli '68. 1st Vice President-Geno Julian '64, Secretary-Lillian Gangwere Cale '66, Past Presidents: John Glaser '66, Dan Haller '61, Ed Shahady '60. Members at Large-Barbara Creamer Yeager '59, John Egan McAteer '61, Fr. John DiBacco '62, JJ Laurer '64, Larry Meagher '65 and Lillian Gangwere Cale '66.

By-Laws:

Active Membership: (1) All graduates of Wheeling 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: The original/founding members shall include members of Classes of 1959 and 1960 who are qualified for Active membership.

Honorary Membership: Extended to the President of Wheeling University and to other friends of the university.

Posthumous Membership: Open to those eligible for active membership, but who 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 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 WU 50 Year Club. Inaugural nominees will be graduates from the classes of 1959 through 1970 who have distinguished themselves through one or more of the following: volunteer community service, humanitarian efforts, academic accomplishments and a successful career. Additional ambassadors will be added from each 50-year class.

Being a WU 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 WU, Aid current students with career advice, Cultivate interest in WU and its projects, Encourage fellow alumni and others to support WU 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 WU, 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 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 WU graduates to the students and faculty of WU. Anyone with teaching experience is invited to submit their resume to eshahady@att.net.



Patricia Weitzel-O'Neill '69 receiving 50 Year Club Diploma from Dr. Jackie Madry-Taylor June 2019