

# WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY CHRONICLE

2018 EDITION



MISSION  
DRIVEN

#TheWheelingWay





# SAVE THE DATE

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WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY

## GAUDIOSA

(gow-de-o-sa) n. *Joyous Feast*

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# Saturday, April 14

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*A gala to support scholarships for  
Wheeling Jesuit University Students.*



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# WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY CHRONICLE

## FEATURED



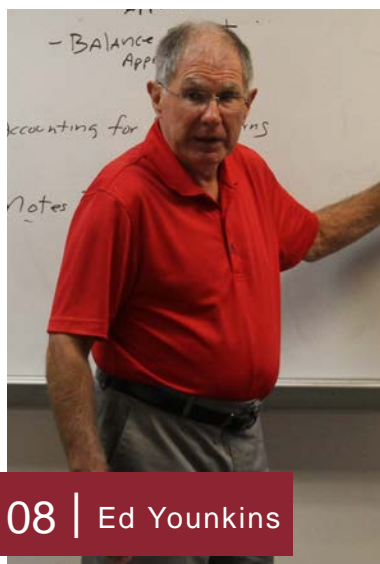
20 | Garden



12 | Admissions



15 | Bread Run



08 | Ed Younkins

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## 2018 EDITION

### ALSO INSIDE

Campus News	5
Features	14
Alumni News	29
Alumni Notes	34

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## Dear Alumni and Friends,

All of us at Wheeling Jesuit University have much to look forward to in 2018: enrollment growth, new programs, new members of our community on campus, and a continued commitment to a high-quality, Jesuit education focused on educating young men and young women for lives of leadership and service. It's a great time to be a Cardinal!

Firstly, our admissions team has been quite busy recruiting our next class. Sean Doyle, our Associate Vice President of Enrollment, reports that recruitment for the class of 2022 is in full force and the application pool is a wonderful sign of things to

come. Applications and acceptances are at a 10-year high, and the Admissions team is expecting a fantastic group of Cardinals to be joining the Wheeling Jesuit family in fall of 2018.

The addition of our new Simulation and Game Design academic program and football in athletics have brought new interest in Wheeling Jesuit and opened up more opportunities at the University. Simulation and Game Design has a solid number of applicants, and the football coaching staff has evaluated more than 1,100 potential student-athletes.

While students and faculty have been busy in the classroom this year, Physical Plant, Housekeeping and Student Services put the finishing touches on a new student lounge. The area is located on the second floor of Swint Hall, adjacent to the Troy Theater. The new lounge will provide students with an area to hold meetings, watch TV, study and relax. This addition was a direct result of conversations with student leaders, and we are happy we could make this happen. As a part of this renovation, our bookstore has moved entirely online; I urge you to check out the great selection of WJU merchandise now available at [wjugear.com](http://wjugear.com)!

In December, we welcomed a new chief financial officer, Jeff Strader. He brings a wealth of experience to WJU, having worked in leadership roles in the private and public sectors. Jeff holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Pfeiffer University and a master's in accounting from the University of North Carolina. I'm also happy to announce we have hired Shannon Payton as our new Alumni Director. She began her new role at WJU just a few weeks ago. Shannon has close ties to Wheeling Jesuit; her grandfather, Carson Bryan, was in the University's first graduating class of 1959. Shannon had served as the Director of Student Activities at West Virginia Northern Community College since 2008. She looks forward to meeting and working with our alumni near and far.

I encourage everyone to continue to be engaged in the lifeblood of your alma mater. Get involved: help us identify students who would benefit from a WJU education; attend athletic and alumni events; support *Gaudiosa* in April; make a gift; and come home in June for Alumni Weekend. Our new partnership with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, detailed in a Declaration of Shared Purpose ([wju.edu/shared-purpose/](http://wju.edu/shared-purpose/)), means that the University has more potential than ever moving forward, and your support of and involvement with Wheeling Jesuit is vital to all that we do on campus – and in the world!

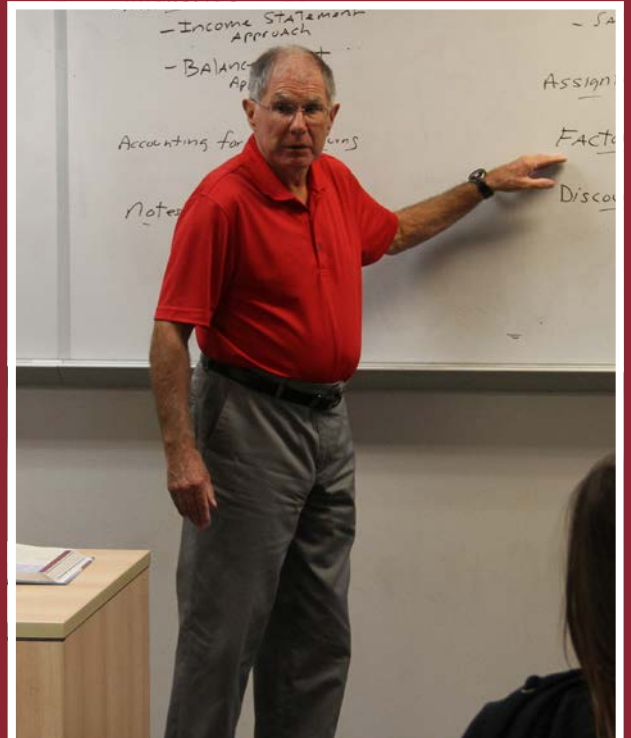
Luceat Lux Vestra!

Dr. Debra Townsley

*President, Wheeling Jesuit University*



# *Campus News*



# U.S. News Ranks Wheeling Jesuit Best Regional University in State

Wheeling Jesuit University once again has been ranked the best regional university in West Virginia by the 2018 *U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges* edition.

Ranked the 41st best regional university in the South Region by the magazine, Wheeling Jesuit boasts the best graduation rate and composite score of any West Virginia institution ranked by U.S. News this year. In fact, WJU's graduation rate is at least 10 percent higher than the other colleges and universities in the Mountain State, the rankings report.

"We are proud to once again be recognized for academic excellence by U.S. News & World Report," said Dr. Debra Townsley, WJU President. "These rankings validate our focus on educating the whole person, and our mission of training young men and young women for lives of leadership and service."

Wheeling Jesuit also received high marks in student retention and student to faculty ratio.

"Wheeling Jesuit continues to provide an incredible academic experience to the students of this region and the most recent rankings show that WJU continues to produce outstanding women and men for others. Students choose Wheeling Jesuit because we are the most affordable Jesuit institution in the country and because we educate them to be successful following graduation," said Sean Doyle, associate VP of Enrollment.

Regional universities are defined by U.S. News as offering a broad scope of undergraduate degree and some master's and doctorate level programs. The ratings are based on 15 indicators of academic excellence. The assessment is heavily weighted toward academic excellence, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, and alumni giving.

## Wheeling Jesuit Named Best 'Hidden Gem'



Wheeling Jesuit University once again has been named the best Hidden Gem institution in the Mountain State by College Raptor Inc. WJU also was chosen by the college ranking service as a Hidden Northeast Gem this year as well.

This marks the third year Wheeling Jesuit has been chosen the top institution in West Virginia by College Raptor Inc.

The selection recognizes WJU as one of the best colleges in the country, based on a combination of factors, including the number of applications received, graduation rates, campus diversity, endowment per student, and other key metrics as reported via the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for the most recently available enrollment year.

"Wheeling Jesuit University is truly a hidden gem in the state of West Virginia and across the country. Our dedicated faculty educates young men and women in their chosen fields, and encourages these students to live out our mission to serve and be leaders in their communities once they graduate," said Dr. Debra Townsley, WJU President.

WJU also was selected as a Hidden Northeast Gem, a ranking which highlights the beautiful landscapes, bountiful industry, and storied history which fill the Northeastern region of the United States.

Townsley said it's no surprise that WJU was highlighted in this ranking. "Our beautiful campus and the surrounding landscape in the Ohio Valley provides students with an environment conducive for learning."





# Three Master's Nursing Programs Receive National Recognition

Wheeling Jesuit University's family nurse practitioner, nurse education and RN to MSN master's programs have received national recognition by two online ranking services.

SR Education Group ranked WJU's nurse practitioner program (FNP) as one of the best and most affordable in the nation. Additionally, BestMastersDegrees.com named the university's nurse education track and RN to MSN program among the most affordable in the country.

"At Wheeling Jesuit, our nursing programs educate students to care for the mind, body and spirit of the patients entrusted in their care. This recognition of our masters' programs shows our continued commitment to provide academically rigorous curricula at an affordable cost," said Dr. Debra Townsley, president of Wheeling Jesuit.

According to SR Education 2018 rankings, WJU was the 23rd top online FNP program. The ranking group researched and analyzed accredited online schools across the nation, taking into consideration academic strength factors, as well as annual tuition rates to provide a list of colleges offering the best value to students. Inclusion on this list shows high academic standards and a commitment to affordability, two key factors important to

prospective students.

As a most affordable program, SR Education ranked Wheeling Jesuit's FNP program 21st. The schools on this list offer the most affordable online nurse practitioner master's degrees and represent online schools across the nation that are making an effort to provide economical options for students.

BestMastersDegrees.com ranked the 30 most affordable private college nursing education master's programs and listed WJU as the 18th best in the country.

The ranking service also chose WJU's RN to MSN online program as the 32nd most affordable in the country.

"The rankings by these services recognizes our programs' strong academic standards and faculty who are dedicated to providing personalized instruction. The Wheeling Jesuit graduate nursing programs offers small classes that allow for individualized attention. Small class sizes allow our faculty the time to critique the assignments in an attempt to provide feedback to each student personally and not just to the group," said Dr. Maryanne Capp, director of WJU's Nursing Department.

# Ed Younkins: 45 Years and Going Strong



After 45 years of teaching at his *alma mater*, Dr. Ed Younkins said he still feels like a rookie.

The long-time business department professor and former department chair finds he loves teaching as much now as when he began in the early 1970s. “I feel like I just started teaching. I love being in the classroom with the students. It’s so gratifying seeing them learn and knowing I had a hand in their development,” Younkins added.

A graduate of the WJU class of 1970, Younkins started teaching at Wheeling Jesuit just two years after he graduated. “As a graduate, I was honored and thrilled when then chair of the Business Department, Dick Levitt, called to ask me if I wanted to teach at my *alma mater*.”

Throughout his 45 years of teaching, Younkins has taught many students – thousands he believes. While technology has changed the classroom experience, Younkins said it has not altered his basic educational philosophy nor his approach to teaching.

“I lecture, write on the board, thoroughly explain problem solutions relating them back to fundamental concepts, answer student questions, and engage students in discussion,” he explained.

Accountants no longer crunch numbers, use paper, pencil or adding machines in their work – those things have been replaced by specialized accounting and auditing software.

“The evolution of technology has changed the accounting profession, but there is still a need today for students to learn accounting theory. They need to know the theory underpinning the steps the software should be taking in order to determine if the software is taking the correct steps,” Younkins added.

While Younkins is best remembered for his work in the classroom, he also is proud of developing the Adult and Graduate Programs at Wheeling Jesuit. Younkins’ knowledge of accounting was evident early in his career. In 1973 he received an award for earning the highest score that year in WV on the CPA exam. In addition, in 1976 he was honored for attaining one of the top 10 scores in the nation on the Certified Management Accounting (CMA) exam.

In June 1975, Younkins, then coach of the WJU men’s tennis team, was in Kansas City where his team was competing for the NAIA Championships. He was hoping to bring home a championship, but administrators had another task for him on that trip.

The newly appointed Academic Dean, Rev. John Cuddigan, urged Younkins to meet with Dr. Otis Miller, director of Rockhurst’s Evening Division to discuss how Wheeling Jesuit could develop an evening division while he was in the midwest. He met with the leaders at Rockhurst and returned to Wheeling with ideas to start the new program.

Younkins met with officials from across campus to discuss all that was necessary to implement an evening program at WJU. Following the meeting that summer, Younkins was given the green light to develop a curriculum and timetable for implementation of the new program and not long after, the Board of Directors passed a resolution establishing an Evening Division.

Through the work of Younkins and Tony Basil ’60, the first dean of the Evening Division, the new program launched in August 1975 with an



enrollment of more than 100 students.

Also in 1975, Younkins led the initial study into development of the Masters of Business Administration degree. Four years after work began, WJU received permission from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools to offer the full MBA degree program. Younkins served as the first director of the Graduate Business Program, which had 63 students enrolled in those first classes. He served as the director of the program for a total of 35 years.

Thanks to that initial graduate program, Younkins said Wheeling Jesuit was able to add additional graduate degrees in accountancy, nursing, physical therapy and others. He also was the founder of the political and economic philosophy program.

Throughout his 45 years, Younkins said he was influenced by many great faculty members like Levitt and Sam Anthony, who taught accounting and Bruno Hartung, professor of Business Administration. "What I remember most from the early years was how cooperatively and smoothly faculty members across many disciplines worked together to develop programs." More recently, Younkins' departmental colleagues have included recently retired Kathy Solovan, John Mansuy, and Chuck Millick, as well as current faculty members, Ted Pauls and Homan Hajiran.

When he wasn't busy teaching and grading tests, Younkins found time to write hundreds of articles and five books, and edit another five books. Most noteworthy are the three books he wrote in his widely acclaimed trilogy of freedom and flourishing: *Capitalism and Commerce*; *Champions of a Free Society*; and *Flourishing and Happiness in a Free Society*.

Throughout his time at WJU, Younkins is responsible for the university receiving more than \$1 million in grant money from the following: Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare – Title III and the BB&T Charitable Foundation. The BB&T grant provided funding for the establishment of WJU's Institute for the Study of Capitalism and Morality, for which Younkins serves as the executive director.

While he won't admit to any 'favorite'

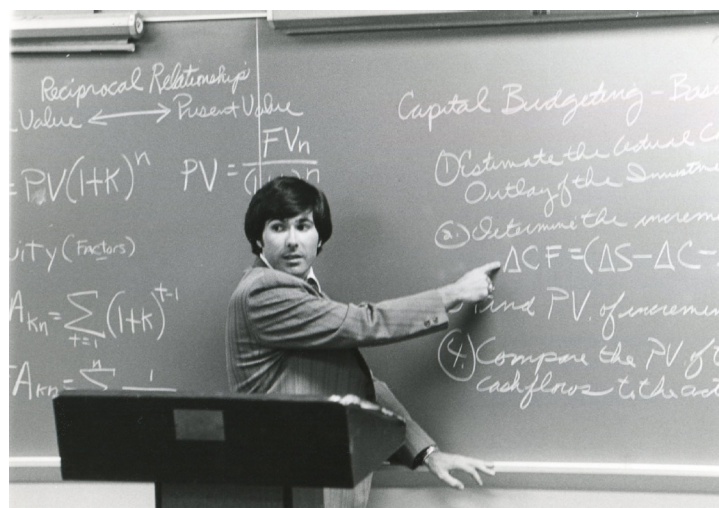
students, he does have a favorite class to teach – Intermediate Accounting. "I think it's my favorite because it is the foundation for all of accounting," he explained.

"Fr. Charles Currie, former president of Wheeling Jesuit, frequently referred to the college as a 'people place.' I would agree that this university is that because of the numerous extraordinary colleagues and students who have passed through the campus," Younkins said.

What Younkins finds most rewarding is running into graduates and seeing how successful they have become in their professional lives.

"My career has permitted me to be a life-long student. I can't imagine another profession that could be more rewarding," he said.

As for retirement, Younkins said he still enjoys being in the classroom and is staying put for the time being. "When it stops being fun, that's when I'll retire."



## Caring for Creation is a Privilege for Wheeling Jesuit Employee

People of all ages and walks of life have the opportunity to dedicate themselves to care for a part of creation that is around them and Wheeling Jesuit's Kathy Tagg provided care to 104 Monarch butterflies this summer.

Tagg, director of Disability Services at WJU and a West Virginia Master Naturalist, said, "Caring for creation is a privilege. I have chosen to care for one of God's most amazing and beautiful creatures, the Monarch butterfly."

This summer, she raised 104 Monarchs in her home from eggs to caterpillars to adults, and tagged them for Monarch Watch to track their long journey to Mexico for the winter.

Tagg said there were billions of this familiar orange, black and white West Virginia state butterfly about 20 years ago, but today the Monarch population has declined by 90 percent "and it needs humans to help it to survive."

"If the Monarch is left to develop in the wild, there is only a five percent chance of it maturing from egg to adult. This is due to predators, weather, parasites, diseases, excessive mowing and use of herbicides that deplete the milkweed supply, which is the Monarch caterpillar's only edible food source and the only plant this butterfly uses to lay its eggs," Tagg added.

She encourages people of any age to 'adopt' Monarch eggs and caterpillars found on milkweed plants. "If you take them indoors, you can raise them in a safe habitat. You need to feed the caterpillars milkweed leaves every day and then release them back into the wild when they become adult butterflies," Tagg explained.

Tagg initially learned about Monarchs and how to care for them from WJU alumna and former Oglebay Good Zoo director, Penny Miller, during the Master Naturalist program through the W.Va. Department of Natural Resources.

Since then, she has shared her love of Monarchs with several WJU employees who



have become interested in raising Monarchs and milkweed themselves.

Institutional Research Data Analyst Ralph Seward, also a beekeeper, was inspired by Tagg to check his yard for milkweed – when he did, he found Monarch eggs and caterpillars that he now raises every year.

Associate Academic Vice President, Dr. Mark Drnach planted milkweed in his yard last fall and this year he 'adopted' some of Tagg's Monarch caterpillars to raise and release at his home. Dr. Jane Neuenschwander, assistant professor of Education, asked Tagg to bring some Monarch eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalides to the elementary education class for the WJU future teachers to observe and to develop lesson plans about Monarchs to use during their student teaching experience.

WJU's Professor of Theology, Rev. Michael Steltenkamp, S.J., also grows organic milkweed in his on-campus garden, offering milkweed seeds to anyone who will plant them as a source of food for the Monarch.

According to Tagg, the Monarch undergoes a complete metamorphosis, developing from a minute egg laid by the female on a milkweed leaf, to a caterpillar who grows to 2,000 times the size of the egg in about two weeks, to transforming into an emerald colored chrysalis, and finally emerging as an adult with exquisite wings that look like a stained glass window. The adult Monarchs then migrate 2,000 miles to Mexico for the winter.



# WJU's Book Club Providing Student Teachers an Opportunity to Learn

Wheeling Jesuit's Book Club has become a learning opportunity for WJU students and those they serve at the Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center.

The club started as a way for the young people of the Juvenile Center to read books, but has grown into so much more. For the last three semesters, Dr. Jane Neuenschwander, associate professor of Education and the student teachers in WJU's education program travel to the Juvenile Center every Wednesday to teach the students at the center.

Because the young people at the Juvenile Center would have the books finished before Neuenschwander and the student teachers arrived, the group from Wheeling Jesuit have begun to incorporate learning activities into their weekly visits.

The weekly visit has become educational for both Neuenschwander's students and those at the Center.

"The students look forward to our visit, but they also provide our student-teachers the opportunity to learn to teach. The student-teachers are gaining more than they give, but probably don't realize it. Some of my students feel a personal mission to keep going back and push the students to work harder," said Neuenschwander.

The young people at the learning center are receiving books to read from Neuenschwander, while the Wheeling Jesuit student teachers have started using activities and magazines to teach current events, while engaging the students in what's happening in the world on a daily basis.

She said her student-teachers are using activities that are entertaining, and make the students think. In doing this, Neuenschwander said, the students are learning while at the same time having fun. Some of these activities include Sudoku and creating family crests. The activities, she added, give the students a break from everyday schooling at the Juvenile Center and allow them to learn while at the same time be creative.

Marc Gittings, a senior English Literature and Professional Education major, has been participating in the Book Club for two years. "I want to develop my professional skills so that I can effectively teach students in the future. My other goal each week is to work with the students that I encounter and help them consider making better decisions in their lives," said Gittings.

Neuenschwander and the WJU students are able to bring the young people at the center a bit of the outside world. The students seem to look forward to having the company, she added. Neuenschwander and the student-teachers are working to make a positive impact on all of the lives that they encounter at the center. This could be as simple as getting them a book they requested to helping one of the students get through a tough time, she added.

Gittings said, "Participating at the Center helps the Wheeling Jesuit University students who participate become men and women for others. By serving the Wheeling community, Wheeling Jesuit University students are helping those individuals that otherwise may be overlooked by society to develop valuable skills."



# Admissions Team Focused on Recruiting Future Cardinals



Five members of the staff are alumni. They are (in front) Jessica Holubeck, Sean Doyle, (in back) Patrick Stanton, Mary Meiman, and Vince Sirianni.

The director of Wheeling Jesuit University's admissions team believes the team in place has qualities that will make it successful in recruiting future Cardinals: passion for the university and belief in its mission.

Sean Doyle, who took over leadership of the department last spring, said, "It is important that we have a team who believes in WJU and is passionate about the mission. I believe that students, parents, high school officials and alumni see that our team has embraced this."

The admissions team of recruiters is made up of five alumni and the transfer counselor. Doyle said each person understands and can speak passionately about the mission to families and prospective students.

"We have a team in place that knows its main objective is to give its full attention to the students and guide them through the admissions' process.

Also key to our success is having the buy-in from across campus – academics, athletics, student life and the administration. This greatly increases our opportunities to be successful because everyone is working together to recruit students," Doyle added.

The department also has a focused and concentrated effort on social media marketing and Wheeling Jesuit's connection to Wheeling and the Ohio Valley.

"We have a concentrated social media campaign to connect us to the community – showing prospective students all that Wheeling and the region have to offer. Our social media efforts are also highlighting Wheeling Jesuit's service in the community, which shows how deeply everyone at the university cares about the city we call our home," he added.

The admissions office has a weekly social media schedule which highlights campus activities,



recruitment events, alumni success stories and university news. Staff members post their activity daily on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

“Social media is where today’s high school students get their information – so we have made it one of our primary ways to communicate with them and get our message about Wheeling Jesuit to them,” Doyle explained.

Through social media, events and visits, staff members, Doyle said, are bringing awareness to Wheeling Jesuit’s mission and what a Jesuit education is about. “There is an assumption that attending Wheeling Jesuit is expensive, when in fact WJU is the most affordable Jesuit college or university in the country.”

Making higher education affordable to the people of Appalachia – which was one of the founding principles of Wheeling Jesuit in 1954 – is key in the recruitment efforts.

“The fact that we are a private university means we offer an individualized education, and we are able to offer more than \$20 million in financial aid. In addition, more than 95 percent of our students are receiving financial aid. These are important factors to families in the state and across the Ohio Valley when searching for a college – knowing a private, Jesuit education is affordable,” Doyle added.

While affordability is important to parents, students want to know what type of success they will have once they graduate, he explained.

“Our social media campaign highlights the

success of our alumni. Our research shows that 93 percent of Wheeling Jesuit graduates go on to graduate school or a job within 12 months of graduation. That’s comforting information for parents and students,” Doyle said.

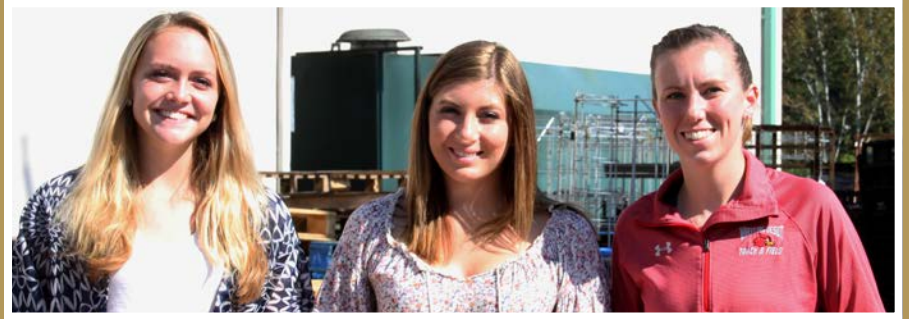
As a graduate of a Jesuit institution, the reality is that Wheeling Jesuit alumni are part of the network of Jesuit alumni worldwide, he said. “Being a part of this network provides our graduates with an even bigger family – a family of millions of alumni who have a special connection. That connection is that Jesuit graduates share the same values to be men and women for others and that’s a bond like no other,” he explained.

That alumni network also is a source for identifying prospective students and helping to recruit students. “We have a group of alumni who work hand-in-hand with our staff to attend college fairs in areas we can’t get to. Chris Rouhier, senior admissions representative, coordinates the Alumni in Recruitment (AIR) program. He works with the volunteers to prepare them to represent WJU at the fairs. This is one more way that the Wheeling Jesuit network connects our graduates to the university.”

The success of the admissions’ effort, he said, is clear messaging at all levels -- during conversations with families, through social media campaigns and in marketing pieces.

“When you are in an environment that seeks success, that environment breeds success. That’s the environment our students experience at Wheeling Jesuit.”





# *Feature News*





# Track and Cross Country Members Race to Deliver Food

Three members of the Wheeling Jesuit track and cross country team are making an impact in the local community – taking time each week to pick up food at local businesses and deliver it to a local charity.

Teammates Kaitlyn Workman, Lindsay Scheffel and Jenna Furr find the time each week to make what are known as ‘bread runs.’ They balance classes, homework, practice and meets to help with this important service project.

Lead by members from the National Jesuit Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Nu, an army of volunteers collect leftover food items from Riesbeck Food Markets and Panera Bread and deliver them to Catholic Neighborhood Center in Wheeling. In total, 23 trips are made each week to collect and deliver food to the local service agency, which is then distributed to area residents.

Rev. Michael Steltenkamp, S.J., professor of Theology and moderator of Alpha Sigma Nu at WJU, who started what are known at WJU as ‘bread runs,’ said, “These three cross country teammates are not just winning, placing or showing at competitive events, but are also ‘stars’ who are living the WJU motto of letting their light shine--athletically and in doing this corporal work of mercy when feeding the hungry.”

According to Fr. Steltenkamp, “It is a rarity” to have three students from one athletic team participate in the bread runs at the same time.

Workman, a senior biology major, has been participating in the bread runs for two years. “I really enjoy doing the bread runs. I have had the opportunity to meet the many people that work to prepare the food for pick up and those that work at Catholic Charities where we drop the food off. Doing the bread runs help remind me that there are people that do not have all that I have, and that there are people out there willing to help them anyway they can,” she said.

Sophomore biology major, Scheffel is new to the bread run team as of this fall. “The bread run is a humbling experience, because you realize



that the food you are delivering could be someone else's only meal for the day. You realize that you are feeding people who don't have the same privileges as you do.”

Furr, also a senior, has been volunteering for two years. “I'm so glad I decided to start doing this bread run last year. The bread run takes about an hour to do, which isn't demanding on my busy schedule. I always wanted to volunteer my time to help people in need, but I always thought I was too busy with school, athletic training hours and running. When Fr. Steltenkamp introduced the idea of a bread run in my religion class, I knew it was something small that I could devote time to,” said Furr.

Workman, Scheffel, and Furr hope more students on campus get involved, and encourage them to get involved. They said the hour a week it takes to do this is an important service and a small way to help out so many people in the local community.

Track and Cross Country Coach Ricky Moore said, “It is truly remarkable to see these young women live the Wheeling Jesuit mission on a daily basis. Kaitlyn, Jenna and Lindsey all embody how we want every student-athlete on our team to live. They are very well-rounded young women who strive for excellence in all areas of their lives.”

# Alumni Adamowski and Munhall Living the WJU Mission

Two Wheeling Jesuit professional education graduates have answered a calling – to serve in communities teaching students in under-sourced Catholic grade schools.

Michael Adamowski and Katy Munhall graduated in May 2017 with undergraduate degrees in education and joined the University Consortium for Catholic Education (UCCE), which places energetic men and women as teachers in Catholic schools in rural and urban locations across the nation. Both must work two years at their respective Catholic schools, while furthering their own education in graduate school.

According to Dr. Jane Neuenschwander, assistant professor of education at WJU, Adamowski is working at Operation TEACH as a fourth grade instructor at St. Joan of Arc in Harford County, Maryland and is taking master's classes at Notre Dame of Maryland. Munhall is working for Lalanne and teaching third grade St. Mary School in Charlotte, Michigan, and attending the University of Dayton.

“Education is a calling and Katy and Michael are answering that call. They are living in communities with their peers that provide them with a great support system. They will teach two years in rural/inner city schools that will provide each of them valuable classroom experience,” Neuenschwander added.

Adamowski chose Operation TEACH because

it provided him with the opportunity to teach in a Catholic school.

“Teaching at St. Joan of Arc provides me the opportunity to educate the student as a whole -- mind, body, spirit and soul – much like the education I received at Wheeling Jesuit. Operation TEACH also allows me to get two years of experience in the education field, as well as earning a masters in Education Administration and Supervision. Therefore, it's not just two years of experience or a master's degree -- it is two years' experience plus my Masters degree.”

Munhall follows in her aunt's footsteps, who did a program similar to Lalanne. “She loved the program, so I really started looking into these programs because of the experience she had.”

Like Adamowski, Munhall wanted to teach in a Catholic school.

“I had the gift of attending Catholic school when I was a child, and I wanted to be able to help another student to experience this gift. Many Catholic schools in the Lalanne program are under resourced and rely on teachers in the ACCE program to fill positions at the school. Because Lalanne teachers do not receive full pay they are a cheaper option for those suffering schools. I chose the Lalanne program specifically because of the location and the literacy masters program that this program offered,” Munhall explained.

Living in a community also was an attraction for



Munhall. “I love the idea of living in community with other teachers who share the same vision as you -- to teach in Catholic schools and continue to grow in their journey.”

Neuenschwander said living with other teachers in community gives Adamowski and Munhall “a great support system with peers.”

As part of their duties, Adamowski and Munhall are teaching in elementary schools.

“What I enjoy most is seeing my students faces light up with joy when they are beginning to understand a new topic. Teaching at St. Joan of Arc has been an incredible experience thus far. The teachers are all experienced and collaborative, which is really important for first year teachers. Everyone is willing to lend a helping hand,” said Adamowski, who is teaching fourth grade math and science and fifth grade math, science and religion.

Munhall has 20 students in her third grade class at St. Mary School. The school offers instruction from preschool through eighth grade and has about 120 in the entire school.

In addition to their teaching responsibilities, both alumni are juggling taking graduate classes as well. Adamowski said it’s all about finding the right balance.

“Juggling full-time work and graduate courses is not that easy, but it can be done. It is all about time management. Everyday you need to have a plan for what you will work on when you get home from teaching. My daily schedule consists of teaching, planning, dinner, and graduate course work. However, it is very important to find time for yourself.”

Munhall said the experience has been humbling and stressful at the same time.

“I have felt more love, but also more stress than ever before. I am so incredibly supported by all of my fellow Lalanne members, and I do not know how I would be getting through the first year of teaching without their guidance. I have been pushed by my house mates, my colleagues and my students to grow in my faith and in my vocation as a teacher,” Munhall said.

Their former professor, Neuenschwander said that Adamowski and Munhall are seeing first hand how poverty and lack of funding impacts the educational system – “they are becoming

empowered to make a difference in the lives of students.

“This program is allowing Katy and Michael to step out in faith and answer the call to educate young girls and boys in a Catholic school setting. They have become empowered to make a difference. After their two years with ACCE, there isn’t anywhere in the world where they can’t teach,” Neuenschwander said.

Munhall agrees, “This program encourages me to succeed everyday and gives a larger purpose to my teaching. I know that I am doing my job to help all of my students become saints, not to earn a high paycheck.”

“We talk at Wheeling Jesuit about our students living our mission to be men and women for service. Katy and Michael embody our mission to serve others. They were shining examples as students and it’s wonderful to see them continue to live the mission as alumni,” Neuenschwander added.





# Sisters of St. Joseph Grateful for PT Students' Talents and "Love"

Wheeling Jesuit University physical therapy students put their God given talents into practice helping members of the Congregation of St. Joseph – an experience that the students, faculty and Sisters 'love.'

"The Art of Loving" is the theme that the creativity committee of the Wheeling branch of the Congregation of St. Joseph chose to explore this fall. Sr. Theresa Metz said this year's focus, "The Art of Loving," is basic to the community's purpose as expressed in the words of Rev. John Pierre Medaille, S.J., "I'm in love with LOVE and let LOVE love through me."

"The heart of our community's life is God's love. We believe that He teaches us to love everyone. The PT students are allowing God's love to flow through them and because of that, we are enjoying their gift of healing," said Sister Theresa.

"God is working through their hands," Sr. Theresa added. "It is wonderful what the students are doing to help the members at St. Joseph's. The students are sharing more than their physical therapy talents; they offer us great interaction, which we love."

Krissy Grubler, associate professor of physical therapy at WJU, said that the service work her students perform at Mount St. Joseph, "fits nicely into the Art of Loving, since the students use their God-given talents and share them generously."

Each year, WJU's PT students put into practice what they learn in the classroom and work to help members of the Congregation improve their strength, balance and functional abilities. Grubler added, "What originally began as a

program to promote wellness has turned into a rewarding experience that touches the lives of the students and the Sisters – not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually."

"While we perform exercises with the Sisters, the exchange of love that I witness each and every week between the students and the Sisters far outweighs any exercise that they are performing," Grubler said.

Members of the DPT Class of 2019 Sarah Eisworth, Jordan Fuller, Megan Hooper, Laken Jones and Brooke Novia said, "We believe that the students of this program are gifted with compassion, empathy, knowledge and the ability to heal. The way we each contribute our diverse gifts for the purpose of healing others is our personal art of loving. We are grateful to the Sisters of St. Joseph who have provided us with the opportunity to express our spiritual gifts through love, because this ultimately leads us to add our personal touch to God's masterpiece."

Local Service Learning is a course within Wheeling Jesuit's Doctor of Physical Therapy curriculum. Each faculty member has a different service learning site in the Wheeling area. Throughout the fall and spring terms first year students are divided into groups and they spend two to four weeks with a faculty member at the different locations.

The students visited the Sisters four times during the course of the Fall semester, Grubler said. "The service learning experiences allow our students to put what they are learning into practice. They also are learning how to better communicate



with patients. Ten of the Sisters participate on a regular basis.”

The members of the Congregation, Grubler said, enjoy having the students around. “Many of the Sisters were involved in education at some point in their careers so they are able to talk to our PT students about their education. This interaction is beneficial for the Sisters and the students,” she added.

Sr. Theresa said the late Sr. Carol Hannig may have summed up the Art of Loving provided by WJU’s students best. “Sr. Carol said the art of loving comes more easily to those who are thoughtful of others, rather than focused on themselves. Loving means being constantly aware of the needs and feelings of those around you rather than on what you may need at the moment.”





## WJU Students See the Impact Two Gardens Are Making in the Local Community

Two Wheeling Jesuit students are seeing that their hard work in two local gardens is impacting the lives of many around the Wheeling area.

WJU seniors Kailee Latocha and Halli Richards have spent the summer planting, caring for and harvesting fruits and vegetables at gardens located at the university and Petroplus Towers. The summer interns said the experience has taught them the inner workings of gardening, educating others about eating healthy and the value of what hard work can produce.

Richards grew up watching family members tend to gardens during the summer. Until this year, the history and theology major from Dillonvale, Ohio, said she really didn't have much experience gardening.

"The best part of working on the garden projects is watching everything grow from the ground up. As students we are told that Jesuit education involves learning at all levels and this experience has given me a greater insight into gardening, as well as research and working with others," Richards explained.

Since spring, the two students have been splitting time between the gardens on campus and at the nearby Petroplus Towers. Latocha said the work this summer has really opened her eyes to all facets of gardening – from planting to watering to organic fertilizing.

"I didn't know anything about gardening. This

has been a learning process for me. We both talk to the plants like they are our babies. We were so excited when we picked the first pepper and ate it. Working in the garden, watching everything grow, and now seeing all the fresh vegetables being harvested gives you a feeling that all of your hard work has paid off," explained Latocha. A native of Fairmont, Latocha is a math and secondary education major.

The two WJU students are serving as garden interns through the university's Clifford Lewis, S.J. Appalachian Institute. The Council of Independent Colleges awarded WJU a grant to hire student interns to oversee the two gardens.

"This grant builds off an existing program called Harvesting Health, which we started a few years ago. The funding allows the Institute to provide students real world experience in gardening. They not only manage the gardens, but have expanded our outreach to provide healthy food to members of campus and the residents at Petroplus Towers," Collins noted.

Each Thursday from noon to 2 p.m., a farmer's market is held at Wheeling Jesuit. Local residents, as well as WJU employees, can purchase fresh vegetables and fruits at a reasonable price.

At Petroplus Towers, residents provide some assistance in the garden, but Latocha said the best part about the garden is that fresh, organic produce is grown and available on-site for those



living at the Towers.

Richards said working at the gardens connects them with the Petroplus community.

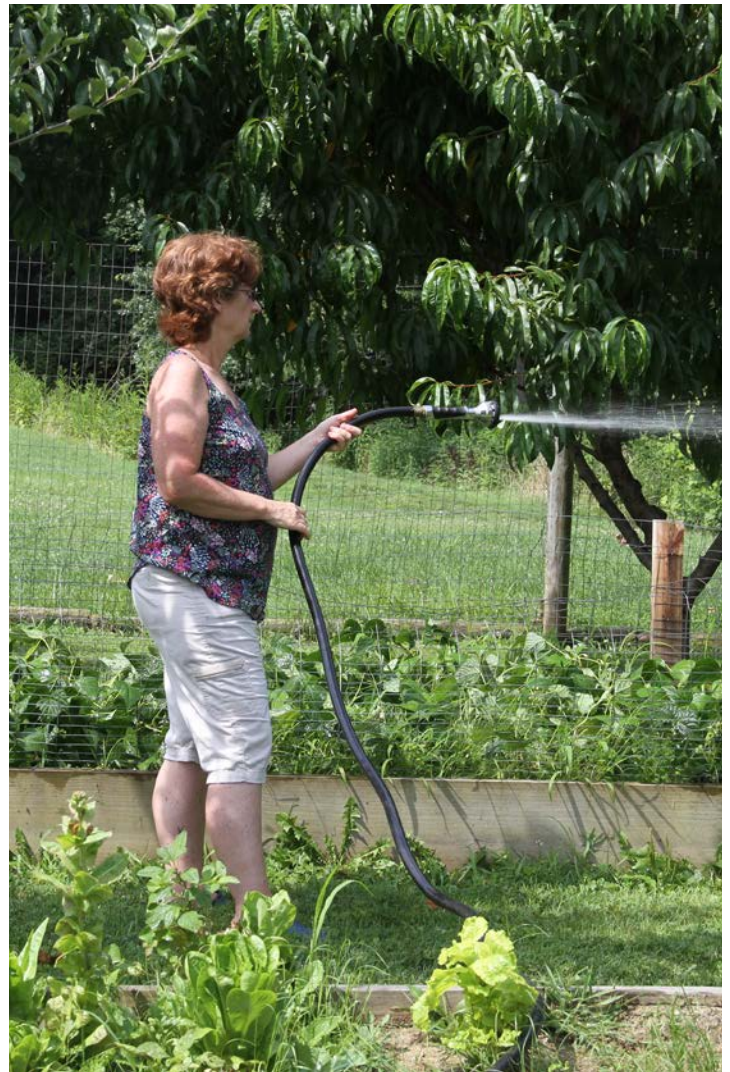
“Part of what we do is to teach others about healthy eating. The residents at Petroplus Towers, most of whom are elderly and on a fixed income, now have on-site, healthy vegetables available to them,” Richards added.

Once all of the produce is harvested from the two gardens, their work won’t be finished. Latocha and Richards hope to create a “buddy program” at Petroplus. Their plan is to recruit other WJU students to work with the residents at the high rise on off-season garden activities that relate to healthy living. There also are plans to expand

programming to other senior citizen centers, including nursing homes, other high rises and senior centers.

The students have planted all types of vegetables – from tomatoes, peppers and cabbage to squash, eggplant and cucumbers. Because of the variety and the low prices, more than half of those coming on campus each week for the farmer’s market are community members.

“Working in the gardens has allowed me to watch life grow and appreciate that our hard work has made an impact in the lives of so many people. I’ve really seen God’s work in action,” Richards said.







## Wood Chopping Trip Makes an Impact on Students

The Fall immersion trip to Big Laurel Learning Center is more than just chopping wood so that others have heat during the winter. The trip gives Wheeling Jesuit students the chance to make a difference in the lives of others while learning more about themselves and the people they serve.

Since the 1980s, students from Wheeling Jesuit have been traveling to a remote area of southern West Virginia to chop wood for the residents at Big Laurel. It was started by Rev. James O'Brien, S.J., who realized then the service was invaluable to the learning center and the nearby residents because the chopped wood helped to heat homes and the school for the winter months.

Today, WJU students still make the trek through the mountains to spend their fall break helping the director and the Sisters who reside at Big Laurel. This year 10 students made the trip to southern West Virginia to serve the residents of the mountain.

"Our students get a real sense of usefulness – this is a remote area, a depressed area. They see that there are a lot of people who are impoverished. Without the hard work of our students, these residents might not have wood to heat their homes during the winter," said Tom Breiding, coordinator of Immersion Trips for the Appalachian Institute.

This year's trip was spearheaded by seniors Brad Kakos and Kristen Shimko, both of whom have been to Big Laurel several times.

Kakos said the trip has provided him a greater understanding of Appalachian as well as giving him the opportunity to live the university's mission to serve others.

"While we do accomplish work that is greatly needed at Big Laurel before winter, I have learned so much from everyone during the trips and have created memories that I will always cherish. The trip brings to light just how much students live WJU's mission," Kakos said.

Shimko said the group of students spend a day and a half chopping, splitting and stacking wood at Big Laurel, "which is their main source of heat for the winter months."

She added, "What we do for them allows them to stay warm in the winter and they always express how grateful they are for our help. Rebecca, one of the women who lives on the mountainside and was a former volunteer for Big Laurel, said to me this year that we 'have no idea how much this means to them.'"

The trip isn't all hard work, Breiding said. The students get to spend time with the residents and attend local church services and social activities, which allow them to understand the local culture better.

"This area of West Virginia is one of the most beautiful I've ever seen – not just the natural beauty, but all the people who live and work there. Our students say it's one of the most fun trips they



have experienced, because they get to interact with the residents,” he added.

The trip, Kakos said allows the students to disconnect from campus.

“One of my favorite aspects about being at Big Laurel is the fact that you have no cell service, so it’s a great time to really disconnect with the outside world and focus more on the present, both in terms of the work we are doing and the people surrounding us. Wheeling Jesuit is the only Jesuit institution in the Appalachian region which provides us, as students, with amazing opportunities to learn about Appalachia and provide service to those who are in need,” Kakos explained.

Shimko said each year the students get the opportunity to get a taste of the local culture and step outside of the normal campus routine.

“Each year we go into town one evening and go to a line-dancing place, which I find to be one of the best parts of the trip. Normally everyone in the group gets up, steps outside of their comfort zones, and dances,” she added.

The annual service trip to Big Laurel, the two students said, has made a lasting impression on each of them.

“This trip has taught me to appreciate the little things in life. We sometimes don’t realize how lucky we are to have a furnace in the winter or running water that’s not dependent upon rainfall. This trip has taught me to be more conscious and thankful for this. Something as simple as heat is more difficult for those on the mountainside to obtain. The service aspect of WJU has given me an opportunity to feel like I have made a small difference in other peoples lives,” Shimko explained.

Kakos added, “The Jesuit education that I have received, along with the service trips that I have gone on, has really developed my own passion for helping and being of service to others. Before coming to Wheeling Jesuit, I would have never gotten as involved with service work as I have. My education has made me want to commit myself to a year of service after I graduate in December, and hopefully I can serve at Big Laurel.”



# Working at Project HOPE Makes an Impact on WJU Nursing Student Devyn Nickerson



When WJU senior nursing major Devyn Nickerson began working at Project HOPE, little did she know how the experience would impact her life – both personally and professionally.

“I knew I wanted to work in the medical field, and nursing seemed the perfect combination between medicine and caring for people. I was planning to work in the intensive care unit upon graduation and become a nurse anesthetist in a couple of years. That was until I began working with Project HOPE,” Nickerson said.

Project HOPE is a street medicine team that works under the auspices of the Wheeling-

Ohio County Health Department. Street medicine teams bridge the gap between homeless and structured healthcare institutions by going to the people, providing medical care for people that often suffer from mental illness in their environment, and building relationships to empower the individuals. It is a collaboration of medical, nursing, social work, pastoral care and other health care professionals who provide basic medical care, food, water, clothing, follow-up appointments and information on agencies and services to individuals living on the streets and in homeless shelters in Wheeling.

The lifelong Wheeling resident never knew there was a large homeless population in the city. “I quickly oriented myself to the reality that there are people living on the streets in Wheeling that are often neglected by society. We visit patients where they live – under bridges, inside shelters and on the streets – and provide them medical care with dignity. Project HOPE provides an avenue to provide care with a purpose,” Nickerson explained.

She began as a volunteer, but now is part of the team that cares for patients on the streets of Wheeling, as well as at the team’s multiple exam rooms in the city. In addition to caring for patients within her scope of practice, Nickerson works with Project HOPE Director, Crystal

Bauer, to empower patients and raise funds and awareness.

Seeing how some of the homeless residents live opened Nickerson’s eyes to the injustices in the community and what matters in life, she said. “I had the chance to meet and provide care to an 18-year-old woman who was homeless. After spending time speaking with her, she began crying and said she didn’t know that anyone in the world cared about her. This could be any one of us someday.”

Nickerson learned about Project HOPE “by overhearing a conversation at Wheeling Spice and Coffee in downtown Wheeling. I was looking for opportunities centering around medical service and Project HOPE seemed to be the perfect match. Once I got involved – I fell in love with it. Working as a nurse in a hospital is interesting, but after working with Project HOPE, using my talents in a more hands-on, community health and sometimes emergency care situations with impoverished populations is what I’m passionate about. I get to do it all, from providing acute medical care to the emotionally intensive mental health care to the people that need it the most,” Nickerson added.

When she began to volunteer with Project HOPE, she came to realize her dreams of being a nurse anesthetist had been



replaced with working at a place where she could serve the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of a community. She plans to work, following graduation, on a reservation for the Indian Health Service in the western United States.

While Project HOPE opened her eyes to how she could use her nursing education to serve others, Nickerson said it was her mother who instilled in her the Jesuit values of being a person for others and her professors at WJU that reinforced the values and created her “ah hah!” moment.

Having that understanding of the mission called Nickerson to start a local MEDLIFE Chapter at WJU in 2016. Made up of Wheeling Jesuit students from many educational disciplines, the club focuses on doing local volunteer work and raising funds for medicine, education, and development projects for impoverished communities in other MEDLIFE sites in Peru, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Tanzania, and India.

Many of the MEDLIFE members rotated as volunteers with Project HOPE, and the



group held a 5K race in the spring of 2017 to raise funds. The monies raised, Nickerson said, helped to cover the costs for WJU students travel to Peru last August for a service trip, and some of the funds raised were used to improve a home for a physically disabled mother and her daughter in Peru. During that trip, WJU's MEDLIFE Club joined 60 students from other clubs across the country to assist local medical personnel and MEDLIFE volunteers to execute medical mobile clinics in impoverished areas and work alongside community members to build multiple staircases, which are a

vital indirect step in accessing government healthcare.

Nickerson and the Club also held two International Healthcare Forums last year, which featured WJU professors and students, and local doctors who presented and led discussions on healthcare systems and global health issues in their home countries.

“My service work at Wheeling Jesuit and working with the Project HOPE team have really opened my eyes to what matters in life. It astounds me that people go into medicine purely for money or job security. Programs like Project HOPE and MEDLIFE are about taking care of people when they are at their most vulnerable state and providing compassionate and empathetic care. Somebody needs to do it, and I have the drive, passion, and skills...so it seems as if my path, at least for the near future, has been decided.”



## Student Services Office Focused on Providing Student's with Great Experience

A newly organized staff in Student Services said it is committed to caring for development of the whole person and providing students with a great experience while at Wheeling Jesuit University.

According to Dan Dentino, vice president of Student Services, the administration assessed the organizational structure of the department and recognized the need to bring all the departments that make up Student Services to one location – so to speak.

“We recognized there was a disconnect. Now, when you come to Swint Hall it feels more like a student union. For the employees, it allows us to better communicate and work together to make the student experience better and more seamless,” said Dentino.

Located in Swint are residence life, campus activities, campus ministry, the health center and security. Not located in Swint are three other departments -- athletics (McDonough Center), career services (Acker Bridge) and the counseling offices (Ignatius Hall).

“We have a great team assembled with some new faces and some familiar faces in new roles. Everyone in Student Services is dedicated to making each and every student's time at Wheeling Jesuit enjoyable and educational,” Dentino added.



“The Admissions process is what we call the first date for a student. Student Services and Residence Life – that's the marriage. Our area takes what's being learned in the classroom and helps our students bridge the unintentional gap between what they are learning and how they apply it to real life – life in the residence halls, at campus activities, on the field and court and in the community,” he continued.

The Student Services Department this year has undertaken a drive to partner with student leaders around campus in order to listen to what students need and hear their concerns, Dentino added. “With listening comes empowerment. We want to hear what the students want and need, then work to effect change and do what is best for the greater group.”

One change that came out of those conversations was the need for additional student space inside of Swint Hall. Renovations of space on the second floor, where the bookstore was housed, are under way to convert the room into a student lounge.

Dentino said conversion of this space will provide the student body with an area for meetings, fellowship, gaming and television watching.

So far, this new approach to student life is catching on with students and has brought a lot of hope among the student body, Dentino said.

“Our goal is to help students become the best version of themselves possible - to help them find success and graduate with both big heads (from the education they earned) and big hearts (a desire to serve the common good with what they have learned). It's a great day to be a Cardinal.”



## WJU Alumna, Dianna Vargo, Named Director of Graduate Education and ACT Programs



Wheeling Jesuit University has chosen an experienced educational professional -- with roots in the Ohio Valley -- Dr. Dianna Vargo as director of Graduate Education and Accelerated Certification for Teaching (ACT) programs

In her new role at WJU, Vargo is responsible to facilitate and administer the Master of Education Leadership (MEL) and Accelerated Certification for Teaching (ACT) programs.

"This role provides an exciting opportunity to work with and prepare educators and administrators of tomorrow. Our education department is committed to the mission of Wheeling Jesuit University -- to educate students for Life, Leadership, and Service with and Among Others. As a graduate of Wheeling Jesuit, it is a privilege to return to my alma mater in this new role," Vargo said.

Vargo, who received a master's degree from WJU in 1987, took over her new position last summer. She returned to her alma mater in 2016 to be an adjunct instructor in the education department. In addition to her new administrative responsibilities, Vargo also will teach classes in the undergraduate and graduate education programs at Wheeling Jesuit.

"Wheeling Jesuit University undergraduate education program allows for state licensure in elementary and secondary education, while the ACT program offers an 18-month online path to teacher certification in grades five through adult. Our MEL degree offers working educators the opportunity to earn a master's degree in as little as one year in school or school system

leadership for principal or superintendent licensure or instructional leadership for classroom teachers," she explained.

Vargo holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Ohio University, as well as a master's degree in mathematics education from Wheeling Jesuit and a masters in education administration from West Virginia University. She earned her doctorate in educational leadership from WVU in 2009.

"Our programs rely on experienced and committed instructors who are current or former school administrators and who work collaboratively to ensure excellent and efficient administration of all our education programs," Vargo added.

Prior to coming to Wheeling Jesuit, Vargo spent much of her career working in the Ohio County (W.Va.) School District as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. In 2005, Vargo moved into school administration with Ohio County Schools, where she was the assistant superintendent from 2005-09, then the deputy superintendent from 2009-12. In 2012, she became the superintendent of Ohio County Schools, a role she held until 2016.

## Yovich Takes Over Leadership of Athletic Department



WJU has hired an experienced athletic administrator, Rudy Yovich, as its new director of Athletics.

Yovich took over his new position Sept. 5 – a post that has him overseeing 20 men's and women's sports at WJU. He comes to Wheeling Jesuit from Defiance College in Ohio, where he served as

its director of Athletics since 2014.

"Rudy has brought a wealth of experience in athletic administration to our university. His 15-plus years of experience in athletic operations, sports information and marketing are a great benefit to WJU and all our student-athletes. Most importantly, he believes in WJU's mission to develop men and women for life, leadership and service," said Dr.

Debra Townsley, WJU president.

Wheeling Jesuit's mission, Yovich explained, "aligns with my core values as an athletic administrator. It is exciting to see that academic excellence and service are key factors for all students at the university. That, along with the growth potential of the athletic department moving forward, are why I wanted to join the Wheeling Jesuit community."

At Defiance College, Yovich was responsible for overall leadership of the school's 18 intercollegiate programs and over 300 student-athletes.

Prior to his post at Defiance, Yovich was director of Athletics at Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio, and Assistant Athletic Director at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (Ind.)

Yovich is a graduate of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in communications studies. He also earned an MBA in sports management from Columbia Southern University.

## Nine Members of Class of 2017 Commit to a Year of Serving Others

Nine members of the WJU class of 2017 – the largest group in WJU history – are living out the university's mission by performing full time service with agencies throughout the world.

According to Colleen Ryan Mayrand, director of WJU's Service for Social Action Center (SSAC), "The class of 2017 was very involved in service throughout its four years at Wheeling Jesuit. It's very exciting to have so many members of the class commit to full-time service following graduation."

Dr. Debra Townsley, WJU President, said, "Our mission here at Wheeling Jesuit is to prepare young men and young women for lives of leadership and service. Having so many graduates dedicate the first year of their professional lives to this mission shows that the Jesuit principle of being men and women for others is truly alive at WJU."

The students who are working at service organizations are:

**Michael Adamowski**, Lyndhurst, Ohio – Operation TEACH at Notre Dame of Maryland University

**Michael Ames**, Baltimore Md. – Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

**Michael Catrino**, Voorhees, N.J. – Ignatian Service Corps, Los Angeles

**John Cotter**, Pittsburgh, Pa. – Change a Heart Franciscan Volunteer Program, Pittsburgh

**Nancy Leon**, Hyattsville, Md. – Xavier High School, Micronesia

**Katy Munhall**, Newark, Ohio – Lalanne Program at the University of Dayton

**Cole Roberts**, Follansbee, W.Va. – AmeriCorps – Grow Ohio Valley

**Krista Sudyk**, East McKeesport, Pa. – Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps

**Fallon Weidman**, St. Clairsville, Ohio – Xavier High School, Micronesia





# *Alumni News*



## Shannon Payton Named New Alumni Director at WJU



WJU has named Ohio Valley native, Shannon Payton, as its new Director of Alumni Relations.

Payton will lead the university's 10,000-plus alumni, providing guidance and leadership for alumni chapter events, the 50-Year Club and Alumni Council, as well as organizing and executing WJU's annual Alumni Weekend.

Her ties to Wheeling Jesuit run deep – her grandfather, Carson Bryan, was a member of the university's first graduating

class.

"My first introduction to Wheeling Jesuit was through my grandfather. I grew up hearing stories about the university. He taught me what a special place it is and, thanks to my grandfather, I am lucky to have a great deal of historical knowledge about WJU. I am very excited to be the alumni director and look forward to meeting and work with the alumni and current students," Payton explained.

For the past 10 years, Payton served as director of Student Activities at West Virginia Northern Community College. In her role at West Virginia Northern she planned, directed, marketed and implemented student activities at the college's three campuses.

"Shannon brings a wealth of experience in event coordination and marketing that will help us broaden our alumni efforts at Wheeling Jesuit. I know she will be a great asset and leader of our alumni association. All of

us at WJU welcome Shannon and look forward to working with her," said Mark Phillips, WJU chief of staff.

WJU Alumni Council President Pat Gannon said, "Shannon's family connection to the university has instilled in her a deep appreciation for WJU. The members of Alumni Council welcome her to the Wheeling Jesuit family and are excited to with her to chart a new path for the alumni association."

Payton, a resident of Dallas, West Virginia, is a graduate of West Liberty University with a bachelor's degree in education. She recently completed a master's in organizational leadership from West Liberty University. Payton and her husband, Jason, are the parents of two daughters, Addison and Kendall.

Payton replaces Kelly Klubert, who assumed the role of director of communications and conference services for WJU last year.

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## WJU Alumnus Discusses Health Care in Appalachia as Part of a New Speakers Series



“Health Care in Appalachia – A Moral Imperative” was the topic of a presentation by Wheeling Jesuit Alumnus Dr. Edward Shahady '60 in November. He talked to university students and the public about health care issues facing residents across West Virginia and the entire Appalachian region.

“Residents in the Appalachian region, which includes West Virginia and portions of 12 other states, face a disproportionately high amount of poor health. They are more likely to report diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Death rates related to coronary heart disease exceed national averages by 15 to 21 percent. Cancer death rates exceed national levels. Appalachian residents have a unique culture that influences their health care and I discussed how cultural influences are impacting the health of these residents in West Virginia and Appalachia,” said Shahady.

His talk was the first of WJU’s Appalachian Institute’s Alumni Speakers Series. The lecture series was founded by the Institute and the WJU 50-Year Club.

“The Alumni Speakers Series was designed to address current issues of the Appalachian region and offers an opportunity to scrutinize environmental, social, economic and political topics of compelling significance and to engage public conversation with debate. One of the desired directions of WJU founder, Archbishop John Swint, related to the expected role of the university to significantly contribute support and leadership to Appalachia. The new lecture series is expected to provide opportunities for enhanced information, interpretation of complex matters and friendly discussion,” said John Glaser '66, president of the 50-Year Club.

“We are grateful to Dr. Shahady for coming to campus to share his expertise with

our students. Residents of Appalachia face many health issues and Dr. Shahady offered insights and suggestions for changing attitudes and finding ways to break out of these cultural influences that affect so many in our region,” said Dr. Mary Railing, interim director of the Appalachian Institute.

During his lecture, Shahady used diabetes as a model for addressing the health issues in the Mountain State and across all of Appalachia. Shahady considers the moral imperative a strongly-felt principle that compels a person to act and do the right thing.

“Many of us are motivated by the reward we receive for an action or the punishment for not completing an action. Medicine as a discipline is strongly driven by this motivation. But, this motivation alone will not create solutions for the future,” he added.

Shahady is a clinical professor of Family Medicine at the University of Florida and has held professorships at the University of Miami and the University of North Carolina. He was also chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina. His focus for the last 15 years has been Diabetes and he is currently medical director and president of the Diabetes Master Clinician Program.



## Two WJU Alumni Present at this Year's Ignatian Family Teach-In

Two Wheeling Jesuit graduates were presenters at this year's Ignatian Family Teach-In held in Washington, D.C in November.

Elizabeth Nawrocki, WJU class of 2016, former Jesuit volunteer, and current graduate student at Loyola University Maryland, joined a panel entitled Living Laudato Si': Environmental Justice and the Jesuit Network. Michael Iafrate, who holds bachelors and graduate degrees from WJU, served as an Ignatian Network speaker. He spoke on the topic Taking our Place in the New Appalachian Story. He shared the message of The Telling Takes Us Home as it relates to Laudato Si' and the Jesuit mission, presenting a Catholic approach of caring for our common home by thinking globally and acting locally.

In addition, WJU had 19 students and staff once again participating at the Teach-In.

"Participating in the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice is one of the best ways we form our students in WJU mission. Each year, we are excited to take our students to the Teach-In, because they leave with a unique understanding of what it means to have a Jesuit education. They learn how to advocate for issues they believe in, and they come back more informed and excited to make change in our local community," said Colleen Ryan-Mayrand, director of the Service for Social Action Center at WJU.

Those attending the Teach-In were: students Maddie Davin, Faith Harris, Jacquelyn Glorioso, Tara Shaniah, Kailee Latocha, Stephen Gretchen, Candace Drzik, Melissa Rios, Caryce McGurn, Darla Yatilman, Azia Yalap, Jake Kim, Anntasia Arias, Sabrina Soriana, Genesis Ramirez, Jon Roque Castro, as well as Jessica Holubeck from the admissions office and Ryan-Mayrand.

The yearly gathering addresses social justice issues in the context of Catholic faith tradition—this year with a primary focus on racism and immigration. Known as the largest annual Catholic social justice gathering in the United States, the Teach-In attracts many young people who represent more than 120 Jesuit and other Catholic universities, high schools and parishes in the U.S., as well as Canada, Mexico and El Salvador.

Initiated in 1997 in Columbus, Georgia, the Teach-In commences yearly in mid-November to commemorate the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador. The six Jesuit priests and their two companions were murdered on Nov. 16, 1989 for speaking out against the country's tumultuous civil war. The Teach-In relocated from Georgia to Washington, D.C. in 2010 in response to the growing interest in legislative advocacy and accompanying educational opportunities.



## Wheeling Jesuit Graduate Appointed W.Va. Supreme Court Clerk



The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia has appointed former Wheeling native and WJU graduate, Eydie Gaiser, to the position of Supreme Court Clerk, replacing Rory Perry II.

Gaiser, a member of the WJU class of 1985 was born in Pittsburgh and moved to West Virginia, where she attended high school at Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy in Wheeling and Wheeling Jesuit University.

She then attended Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh.

Gaiser worked in private practice from 1988 through 1999, when she took a job at the Florida Supreme Court Office of State Court Administration in judicial education. She returned to West Virginia to become Deputy Supreme Court Clerk in August 2003.

West Virginia Chief Justice Loughry said, "Eydie Gaiser has served the Court for many years as Deputy Court Clerk, working side by side with Rory. We are fortunate that she is able to bring forward that experience as she assumes the role of Clerk of Court. I am confident that the transition will be seamless."

Gaiser said, "I am truly humbled and honored that the Supreme Court of Appeals has

appointed me to this position. I am extremely proud of my staff in the Clerk's Office and the work we do."

Since Perry and Gaiser have worked together, the Supreme Court adopted the Revised Rules of Appellate Procedure in 2010 and the Clerk's Office was remodeled so the physical work space and processes could be modernized.

Gaiser is active in the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks (NCACC), made up of clerks in state and federal appellate courts across the country, including the Supreme Court of the United States. She has served on NCACC committees, on the executive committee, and as program chairman for annual education meetings.

## Cosmo Servidio Named EPA Region 3 Administrator

WJU Alumnus, Cosmo Servidio '93 has been appointed a regional administrator with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced Servidio has taken over as regional administrator for Region 3. He oversees environmental protection efforts in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Prior to his appointment by the EPA, Servidio served as director of environmental affairs for the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority in Pennsylvania. He oversaw operations and

facility planning to help identify needed improvements to maintain essential water and wastewater services and provided oversight to ensure utilities comply with all state and federal requirements.

Prior to joining Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority, Servidio served as regional director for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the Southern Region, where he worked to ensure staff implemented the Department's priorities to improve air quality, waste management, radiation protection, remediation, conservation, safe drinking water, dam safety, and clean water

programs.

Servidio also served as the chief of staff for EPA's Region 2 headquarters from 2005-2009.



## *Class Notes*

### 1966

**Mary Jane (Mulvey) Gandour** recently published her memoir *Heart Work: A Family Pilgrimage Inspired*.

**Greg Lyon-Loftus** is a self-employed psychologist physician.

### 1967

**Mary (Bourgholtzer) Sullivan** is realtor/sales associate, SRES, PSA with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Abbot Realtors.

### 1968

**Haywood Martin** is chair of Sierra Club Delta Chapter in LA.

### 1969

**Chesterene Cwiklik** is a forensic scientist and laboratory director at Cwiklik & Associates.

### 1972

**Peggy Higgins** is director of the city of College Park Youth, Family and Senior Services.

### 1973

**Jennifer (Carey) Bak** is managing director of US Trust, Bank of America Wealth Management.

**Paula (Bonuccelli) Singer** resides in West Virginia with her spouse, David '72. She is director of visiting nurse services at Wheeling Hospital.

**Michal Fanning** is president of USC-Business Partnership Foundation.

### 1976

**Ralph Bonuccelli** is BMNT supervisor for the Washington Metro.

**Fred Salancy** is director of development for Catholic arts at Catholic University.

### 1978

**James Douglas** is director security operations for Broadridge Financial.

### 1982

**Jane O'Brien** is a production scheduler for the United States Treasury Department.

**Nancy Frohling** is director of recreation at Alaris Health at Harborview.

**Anna Marie (Fisher) Sheehan** resides in New Jersey with her spouse, Thomas '82, and their three children. She won 1st place in the Jefferson University, Philadelphia Health Hack for a product called Intact Birth.

### 1983

**Mary Elizabeth (Yancosek) Gamble** is chair of the Department of Communications and Media Arts at Bethany College.

**David Gorman** is special education teacher for Buffalo (NY) Public Schools/LDA of WNY.

**Lurene Grail** is director of operations/ chief privacy office at National Background Investigations, Inc.

### 1984

**Carmen Alameno** is senior director of HPE Business at Ingram Micro.

**Randel Russell** is manager of the Ohio County (WV) Development Authority.

### 1985

**Eydie Gaiser** is the Supreme Court of Appeals Court clerk in Charleston, WV.

**Terrence Jansen** is manager of Mitsubishi Australia Limited.

**Mary Louise (Zelno) Kranick** is director of recreation & volunteer services at Abington Manor.

**Enrique "Rick" Meana** is director of coaching for New Jersey Youth Soccer.

### 1986

**Diane (Ward) Sanner** is a registered nurse at Tri-County Hematology Oncology.

### 1987

**Dorothy Blaner** is executive secretary at Jefferson County JVS.

**Rev. Mark Zittle, O.Carm.** is co-director of Formation for Order of Carmelites.

### 1988

**William Fischer** is an associate dentist at Canyon Pointe Dental Group in Nevada.



**Mary Beth Guzzetta** is a health coach at Wellbridge Health, Inc., for Medicare and Medicaid participants suffering from chronic diseases.

### 1990

**Neil deVer** works for Sunrise Assisted Living.

**John Panagiotou** is an Orthodox Christian professor, theologian, scholar and writer. He is the liaison officer for the seminary president in community affairs at Cummins Memorial Theological Seminary.

**Captain Tom Welsh, JAGC, USN** is military professor of International Law and is currently assigned to the George C. Marshall European Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

### 1991

**Russ Hadorn** is sales manager at Contractor's Connection in Ohio.

### 1992

**Grove Calvert** is an electrician with Erb Electric.

**Beth Chambers** is shift supervisor/barista with Starbucks Corporation.

**Tom White** is social media coordinator for the U.S. Dept. of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration.

**Margaret (Zoeckler) Leach** and her spouse, **Michael '90**, reside in Georgia with their children. She is executive assistant with Michael J. Leach DDS, PC.

### 1993

**Jerome Ferrara** is LastPass product specialist at LogMein, Inc.

**Ingrid (Taylor) Slaughter** is finance manager at Nassief Honda.

**Erik Tavenner** is a solutions consultant for Infor, Inc.

### 1994

**Katrina Milam** is a registered nurse at Oasis Orthopedic Hospital.

### 1995

**Frantz Alcindor** is director of academic advisement at Queensborough (NY) Community College.

**Kim (Shaffer) Karakiozis** is director of finance for the city of Clarksburg (WV).

### 1997

**Jeanne (Hamilton) Strawn** for the Barnesville (OH) Exempted Village School District.

**Rachel (Garton) Weber** is physical therapist/clinic manager for Odyssey Rehabilitation.

### 1998

**John Naughton** resides in Ohio with spouse **Amanda (Balser) '99** and their children. He is associate vice president for Graduate and Adult Enrollment at Ohio Dominican University.

### 1999

**Trevor Kaiser** is an infrastructure specialist 3 for the State of Ohio – Dept. of Administrative Services.

### 2000

**Jose Alpuche** is assistant legal counsel for Caribbean Investment Holdings Limited in Belize.

**Michael Traubert** is a mortgage resolution specialist for WesBanco.

### 2001

**Jacob Caddy** is product owner of Cherwell Software.

**Kim Dombroski** is a registered nurse for Amedisys.

**Mark Jennings** is senior vice president, international client advisor, financial advisor at Forefront Wealth Management.

### 2002

**Lucas Gregory** is a physical therapist at Saint Francis Hospital.

**Stephanie (Kleeh) Hockenberry** is marketing director at Russell Nesbitt Services, Inc.

**Kara (Lang) Matwijec** works for Williamson County (TN) Schools.

**Charles Melko** is chief accounting officer at Hannon Armstrong Sustainable Infrastructure Capital.

**Melissa (DiPietro) Myers** is a senior finance manager at Johnson & Johnson.

**Erin Pearl** is an assistant state's attorney III for Frederick County (MD).

**Angela (Reese) Rakauskas** is a communications strategist at Harvard Medical School.

## 2003

**Cynthia Bowling** is office manager for N2 Architecture & Design, Inc.

## **Rebecca (McCumbers)**

**Flavin** is a senior lecturer at Baylor University.

**Justin Julian** is principal relationship manager/VP at Wells Fargo Bank NA in Virginia.

## **Elizabeth (Perry)**

**Justice** works for the U.S. Department of Defense.

## **Kim (George)**

**Long** is supervisor nuclear medicine and ultrasound at Western Reserve Hospital.

## 2004

**Peter Bowman** and his spouse **Maria (Somera) '05** and their children reside in Maryland. He is an assistant professor at University of Maryland.

**Nathan Price** is director sales at Cybereason in North Carolina.

## 2005

**Angela (Zambito) Hill** is executive director of the West Liberty University Foundation.

**Dallas Kratzer** is an attorney with the U.S. Federal Courts.

## 2006

**Pete Harlan** is program manager at Battelle and is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Ohio Academy of Science.

**Anthony Mazza** works at the Northwest Medical Physics Center and is currently working in Anchorage.

**Kevin Ritz** is regional account manager for PAC LP, Roper Industries.

## 2007

**Anna (Diaspro) Konkel** is lead physical therapist at Miami Valley Hospital.

**Christopher Scott** is senior business analyst at One Call Care Management.

## 2008

**Katrina (Kinsella) Clay** is a PET research technologist at National Institutes of Health.

**Kate Garlick** is membership services manager at The General Federation of Women's Clubs.

**Lauren (Hughes) Kinder** is an RN with Kaiser Permanente Anaheim Medical Center.

**Kristen McCarthy** is senior IT project manager for Marketo.

## 2009

**Jon Arlet** is head coach of women's soccer at Bethany College.

**Bethany Allison Wolf** is an ICU-RN at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Ohio.

## 2010

**Amy (Knuth) Compston** is a physical therapist at The Ohio State University James Cancer Center. Roberta (Olivo) Coulling is a surgical physician assistant at OVMC in Wheeling.

**Christina Snodgrass** is a register nurse for WVU Children's Hospital.

**Blake Williams** is a technology support analyst at East Carolina University.

**Kristian Winters** is a human resources generalist with MedExpress.

**Emily (Harris) Yost** is employed in quality management at Mylan Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing in Morgantown.

## 2011

**Jodi (Gottardi) Griffiths** is a physician assistant with Ohio Hills Health Services.

**Laura (Hydeman) Krak** is an optometrist at Family Eye Care.

**Aaron Simpson** works for the Department of Homeland Security in Vermont.

## 2012

**Pete Brogdon** is an attorney with The Cochran Firm Atlanta.

**Julie DeStefano** is a digital sales representative for Mobilize360.

## 2013

**Kelley Asbury** is a clinical support specialist at the Downtown (WA) Emergency Service Center.

**Jess Battilochi** is an athletic trainer at Wheeling Jesuit University.



**Sam Bauman** is reporter/anchor for WPTA-ABC21 television.

**Patrick Callahan** is digital sales manager for WLUC an NBC/Fox Affiliate in Michigan.

**Jennifer Elias** works in marketing/finance at UNIGLOBE Ohio Valley Travel.

**Colin Lawler** is the senior web producer at FOX46 Charlotte (NC) WJZY-TV.

**Dillon McManus** is community services manager at Mainstay Life Services.

## 2014

**Danielle (Martin) Campbell** is a registered ER nurse.

## 2015

**Kaitlyn Carpino** is a teacher with Ohio County Schools.

**Jackie Mansfield** is a registered nurse with Washington (PA) Health System.

## 2016

**Jonathan Bullock-Barrett** is coordinator of student activities at Wheeling Jesuit University.

**Kasey Frazier** is a third grade teacher for Cherokee Central Schools in North Carolina.

**Jan Krempin** is a freelance German and integration teacher in Germany.

**Daniel Wilson** is disabled veteran outreach program specialist for the Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services.

## 2017

**Jami (Godfrey) Clay** is practice development specialist at Genesis Healthcare in West Virginia.

**Amanda Nest** is activities coordinator at Fox Run Hospital.

**The following individuals will be living out their call to be men and women for others by pursuing full-time service after they graduated.**

- **Michael Adamowski** - Operation TEACH at Notre Dame of Maryland University
- **Michael Ames** - Jesuit Volunteer Corps.
- **Michael Catrino** - Ignatian Service Corps, Los Angeles
- **John Cotter** - Change a Heart Franciscan Volunteer Program, Pittsburgh
- **Nancy Leon** - Xavier High School, Micronesia
- **Katy Munhall** - Lalanne Program at the University of Dayton
- **Cole Roberts** - AmeriCorps - Grow Ohio Valley
- **Krista Sudyk** - Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps
- **Fallon Weidman** - Xavier High School, Micronesia

# Obituaries

## ALUMNI

**Kathleen “Kathy” (Rose) Azzaro-Voice ‘68** died on Aug. 26.

**Daniel J. Boyle ‘68**, spouse of **Margaret (Rowan) Boyle ‘69**, died July 3.

**Jonathon Cukryznski ‘09** died Feb. 10.

**Elsie (Worls) Domingo ‘59** died Feb. 20.

**Joseph Ganim ‘61** died Feb. 9.

**Terri (Grammer) Haid ‘63** died Feb. 9.

**Carl Hocke, Jr. ‘68** died Jan. 4.

**William “Bill” Keane ‘73** died July 28.

**G. Martin Lively ‘62**, spouse of **Jean (Ivins) Lively ‘64**, died Jan. 22.

**Margaret “Maggie” (Burke) McKeever ‘69** died May 25.

**Cassandra “Cassie” Spigarelli ‘80**, sister of **Sam Carcione ‘61**, died July 2517.

**Lloyd Wolf, Jr. ‘61** died on July 6.

## FAMILY, STAFF & FRIENDS

**James Boberg**, spouse of **Anne McCauley Boberg ‘71**, died on Feb. 13.

**Rev. Walter Buckius, S.J.** died on April 25.

**Rev. John Coll, S.J.** died July 30.

**Brady M. Davidson**, son of **Michael Davidson ‘71**, died June 19.

**Thomas R. Emmerth**, spouse of **Mary Kay Beltz Emmerth ‘59**, died June 29.

**Mary Irene Gallagher**, mother of **Vince Gallagher ‘70** and grandmother of **Scott Gallagher ‘92**, **John Gallagher ‘95** and **Richard Gallagher ‘97**, died Jan. 28.

**Alice Hutchings**, mother of **Bob Hutchings ‘73**, died Sept. 8.

**Vincent Killeen, MD**, spouse of **Debra (Munjas) Killeen ‘77**, died Sept. 24.

**Kathryn “Ann” Lauer**, spouse of **J.J. Lauer ‘64**, died Feb. 26.

**Sheila Mulvaney**, sister of **Betsy (Mulvaney) Della Vecchia ‘75**, died Nov. 1.

**Jeannie Quirk**, mother of **Msgr. Kevin Quirk ‘89**, died Oct. 25.

**Myrene Pfaff**, mother of **Nancy Pfaff ‘69**, died Aug. 16.

**Donald Reese**, father of **Melinda (Reese) Heitker ‘78** and father-in-law of **James Heitker ‘78**, died on Aug. 20.

**Anthony Troiani**, brother of **Anna Troiani ‘91**, died Jan. 27.

**Glenn R. Wilson**, father of **Ian Wilson ‘04** and father-in-law of **Toni (Moran) Wilson ‘04**, died July 27.

**David R. Zittle**, brother of **Rev. Mark Zittle ‘87**, died Feb. 25.



# *Save the Date*

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## ALUMNI WEEKEND



*June 22 - 24, 2018*

MISSION  
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