



WHEELING UNIVERSITY

Classnotes

We invite you to send updates and information to share with the Wheeling University family. Please feel free to email alumni@wheeling.edu with any news.

Class of 1975

Ed Miles, who resides in Strabane, Pennsylvania, reports that he is retired.

Class of 1976

Fred Salancy is the Director of Philanthropic Strategy at the Knight of Columbus Charitable Fund in Washington, D.C.

Class of 1980

Matthew Doherty is managing director of workforce risk management at Sikich

Ellen (Rattigan) Jessen retired as the judge for the [12th Judicial District Court](#) of New Mexico. She served as the Domestic Relations and Civil Division judge for nearly five years.

Class of 1983

Maire (Brosnan) Katavolos retired as COO of the YWCA of Northern New Jersey. She now runs her own non-profit consulting company.

Class of 1984

Kathleen Carrigan-Hill, serves as the liaison between Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Class of 1985

Catherine (Hacala) Bridges is a services Specialist with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Donald Rice starting a new position as Operations Manager at Rice Real Estate & Appraisal Services.

Class of 1987

Jackie Kapres is the owner of Play Again Sports Injury Center

Class of 1989

Bob Knott is the founder and principal at Timbre Strategies, LLC in Baltimore. He currently serves on the Wheeling University Board of Trustees.

Class of 1992

Scott Gallagher is the Corporate Controller at Mid-Am Building Solutions.

Keri Alexander Luchowski is the executive director of the North Coast Athletic Conference.

Class of 1993

Meredith (Dean) Augustin was featured in an article by the National Catholic Reporter. [Click here to read the](#) article.

Chrissy (Sassaman) Findley is the Associate Dean of Admissions, Athletics and Transfer Students.

Joe Munhall is a managing director with Ikaria Capital Group.

Class of 1995

Emily Mueller has a non-profit *Where Pigs Fly Rescue and Sanctuary*. Mueller rehabilitates pigs in need of rescue. She recently appears on the [Kelly Clarkson Show](#) to talk about this animal rescue program.

Joseph Young is a Wheeling Office Manager at May Engineering Company. He will begin a term on Alumni Council in July.

Class of 1997

JT Jezerski is the chief of staff for U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito.

Michael Pittman was promoted to supervisor with the Allegheny County Division of Real Estate, which is based in Pittsburgh, PA.

Class of 1998

Michael Heinecke recently started a new position as Technical Program Manager at OpenAI.

Class of 2000

Matthew Burnett is CEO of Legacy Lyfe Ventures of Pittsburgh.

Class of 2002

Melissa (DiPietro) Myers is the Global Finance Director, FP&A and Business Operations at Johnson & Johnson

Class of 2005

Sara Budacki is an English Teacher at Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh.

Tim Haught serves as Vice President, Administrative and Document Services for Forrest Solutions in Columbus, Ohio.

Class of 2009

Danny Brosnan is a Major Gifts Officer at the Smithsonian Institution.

Jill Nizan is the Director of Conservation Operations at American Humane.

Sarah (Bell) West is the Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at WLU.

Class of 2011

Chelsea (Reyher) Gerrard is the Director of Communications at Villanova University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Trent Krupica is Senior Director, Marketing at Elior North America.

Class of 2013

Patrick Callahan is the senior director of digital sales and data at Gray TV.

Class of 2014

Donald Luke Kopp is the Assistant Vice President for Student Well-Being and Housing at Fairmont State University.

Class of 2015

Jenifer Leech is a Case Manager at Russell Nesbitt Services in Wheeling.

Class of 2017

Giovanna Loccisano is the owner of Foxfire & Co. which is located in the greater Columbus (OH) area.

Class of 2018

Albert Schrimp is a Data Scientist Associate at AEP Energy.

Class of 2019

Jack Fitch is the Sports Director at the Highlands Sports Complex.

Frank Simo recently published a book [*How to Become Successful as a Foreign Citizen in the United States of America.*](#) He lives in Pittsburgh.

Class of 2023

Batson Sheets is the Graduate Research Assistant for the Office of Institutional Advancement at Bethany College. He is completing his MBA in Non-Profit Entity Management.

Alumni Obituaries

David Bernier, class of 1993, died on May 11, 2025.

Beth Chambers, Class of 1992, [passed away](#) May 2. Beth formerly worked in the WU Admissions Office and was a long-time member of Alumni Council.

Dr. Anthony Cheslock, class of 1970, passed away February 25.

Kathy Hurley, class of 1979, died on March 31, 2025.

Ken Costa, Class of 1986, passed away June 2.

Dennis Lloyd, class of 1964, passed away on March 22, 2025.

Michael Monahan, class of 1982, passed away April 28.

Sandra Neilson, Class of 1966 passed away in April 2025.

Rev. David Brian (Country) Shoda, class of 1979, passed away on April 7.

Francis (Frank) Sweeney, class of 1974, died March 15, 2025.

Sandra Jarrett Wallenhorst, class of 1973, passed away March 30, after a 13-and-a-half-month battle with a brain tumor. She was married to **William Wallenhorst**, class of 1970.