



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 1960

Robert Desch held numerous positions with the Social Security Administration prior to his retirement in 1995. He earned the Regional Directors Citation and the National Commissioners Citation, two of the highest awards given by the SSA.

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

Cindy Albert will be elected into the Wheeling Central Catholic High School Athletic Hall of Fame this Fall.

Matthew Doherty is managing director of workforce risk management at Sikich.

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

Tony Eisel is the Senior Vice President of Bank of America.

Donald Rice is the Operations Manager at Rice Real Estate & Appraisal Services.

Class of 1987

After a 35-year career in Catholic education, the last 34 at Creighton Preparatory School

(Nebraska), **Chris Searl** retired. The last 25 years of his career were spent as an administrator at Creighton Prep. He is now the Director Facilities at the [Omaha Catholic Schools Consortium](#) as the Director of Facilities.

Class of 1988

Joe Pangalinan is the Assistant Vice President at Grandview Wealth Management, LLC.

Class of 1991

Anna Marie Troiani is the Executive Director of the St. Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling.

Class of 1992

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

Class of 1993

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

Joe Munhall is a managing director with Ikaria Capital Group.

Tanya Smigocki is a HR Business Manager II at Enepret Inc.

Class of 1994

Cassie Foster is an assistant professor of Biology and chair of the Science Division at Allegany College of Maryland.

Vincent Ionata, and his brother Richard, own and operate Sarasota Bakery. You can read more about the bakery [here](#).

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.

Class of 1997

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.

Angela (Pannell) Strickland is the Dean of Health Sciences at Guilford Technical Community College.

Class of 2001

Jacob Caddy has been promoted to principal product manager at Gravitee.

Mark Jennings, managing director, head of Capital Introductions at Bite Investments.

Lesley Kohlmyer is now the Area Business Manager - GI at Sanofi.

Class of 2002

Steve Vargo works for JazzHR in account management/customer success/relationship management.

Class of 2003

Melissa (Arnold) Rhoads, Esq. is a partner at the law firm of Tighe & Cottrell, P.A. Her firm provides legal services in DE, PA, MD, and NJ.

Class of 2004

Christina Richey is the Director of Partnerships, Business Development at [SETI Institute](#).

Class of 2005

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

Miranda (Jackson) Rector is an acute care adult nurse practitioner.

Class of 2006

Jade (Eckleberry) Legg was named [head coach](#) of Oak Hill High school (WV) girls basketball program.

Eric Mena is a senior accountant with Langeloth Metallurgical Co. in Burgettstown, PA.

Melissa Myers is a case manager for auto injuries with Morgan & Morgan in Pittsburgh.

Class of 2007

Gretchen Krumdieck is the director of Annual Giving and Constituent Development at St. Ursula Academy in Cincinnati.

Class of 2008

Shirley Carter is the Director of the Department of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Kate Garlick is the Dean of Students at Davis & Elkins College

Class of 2009

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

Matthew Comer recently began a new position as Sr. Vice President, Accounting at [Crawford Hoying!](#)

Class of 2012

Peter Brogdon, II is a trial attorney in Atlanta, Georgia.

Class of 2013

Patrick Callahan has been named Vice President, Digital Sales at [Gray Media](#).

Kara Hazebaker is a Customer Service Supervisor at Swagelok Pittsburgh.

Tyler Menzler is Principal at 1842 Strategies.

Kaitlyn Pytlak-Morra is an Attorney & Legal Counsel Manager of Legal and Public Affairs at the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

Class of 2015

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

Class of 2016

Johannes Strauss (MBA 2018) is a Relationship Manager at First National Bank of South Carolina.

Class of 2017

Katie (Campbell) DeVries began a new position as Manager, Brand Strategy & Growth Marketing at Stanley Steemer.

Kylie Frizell is the head women's basketball coach at Corban University.

Giovanna Loccisano is the Vice President of Operations at Top Shot Drilling

Class of 2018

Nikki Hillard recently began a new position as a Product Change Management Analyst at [HCA Healthcare](#)!

Garrett Emch began a new position as an analyst for Jazz Pharmaceuticals.

Albert Schrimp is a Data Scientist Associate at AEP Energy.

Class of 2020

Chelsey Ward received a master's degree from the Marietta College Physician Assistant program in July.

Class of 2021

Jeff Simms, MBA, is the senior manager of technical training and operator qualification at Mountaineer Gas.

Class of 2025

Salem Mwelwa began graduate studies at the Duquesne University Palumbo Donahue School of Business.

Alumni Weddings

Jess Battilochi '13 married Chase Pami on August 5th in a small family ceremony in Las Vegas.

Alumni Obituaries

Please keep these alumni and their loved ones in your prayers.

Michael Bowman, class of 1968, [passed away](#) on October 29. He was the father of Wheeling graduates, **Mary, Joseph, Michael, Theresa, Martha, Peter, and John.**

Carol Galligan Cornforth, class of 1975, [passed away](#) on September 12.

Dr. Norman Duffy, *professor emeritus* of Chemistry, [passed away](#) October 3.

Paul Herbeck, class of 1968, [passed away](#) on August 24.

Patricia Easterling, class of 1991, [passed away](#) on October 24, 2025

William 'Bill' Floria, Sr., Class of 1964, passed away on November 10. He is the father of William 'Bill' Floria, Jr., class of 1984.

Michael Korth, class of 1988, [passed away](#) on October 10. He was married to **Diane (DiBacco) Korth**, also a member of the class of 1988

Mary Naughton, mother of **John Naughton**, class of 1998, passed away on September 11.

Dr. Joseph Laker, professor emeritus of History, [passed away](#) on September 7. His Mass of Christian Burial was held in the Wheeling University Chapel of Mary and Joseph.

Margaret Reehil, class of 1965, [passed away](#) on October 20.

John Stephen Smith, class of 1960, [passed away](#) on September 22. Cards of sympathy can be sent to his spouse, **Bernice (Eichenlaub) Smith '63** at CS 30, 44735 Audubon Square, Ashburn, VA 20147.

Michael Stout, class of 1968, [passed away](#) on
October 4

Roann (Burris) Wojcik, class of 1963,
[passed away](#) on September 11.