



# 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](mailto: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 1962***

**Lillian and David '86 Cale**, owners and operators of Laurel Caverns in Uniontown, PA., have donated the caverns to the state to preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

### ***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.

**John Lewis** has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Minority Business Accelerator.

### ***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 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 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.

**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.

### ***Class of 1996***

**Erikka Storch** received the AEP 2025 Charles Patton Volunteer of the Year. The company donated \$2,500 on her behalf to the Future of Moundsville Youth Center.

### ***Class of 1997***

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

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

### ***Class of 2000***

Michael Traubert served as a professional boxing inspector for the WV State Athletic Commission on November 22 at Mountaineer Casino.

### ***Class of 2001***

**Stacey Copley** has a new position as Imaging Manager at Bon Secours Mercy Health.

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

### ***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***

**Michelle Helal** has joined the [HayMed](#) anesthesia team.

**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.

### ***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***

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

### ***Class of 2012***

**Peter Brogdon, II** is a trail attorney in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Tyler Glover** is an outside sales representative for Palmer-Donavin.

### ***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.

### ***Class of 2015***

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

### ***Class of 2016***

**Rachel Keeney** is Executive Director of Top of West Virginia Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

### ***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** is 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.

### ***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.**

**Eugene "Gene" Delia**, class of 1973, [passed away](#) on November 13.

**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.

**Thomas Lilly**, class of 1962, passed away in October of 2025.

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

**Carl 'Chip' Riccio**, class of 1971, [passed away](#) on December 2.

**(Eichenlaub) Smith '63** at CS 30, 44735 Audubon Square, Ashburn, VA 20147.

**William Stoehr**, class of 1966, [passed away](#) on November 21.

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

**John Tokarz**, class of 1974, [passed away](#) on December 2.