



# 50 Year Club Newsletter

Editor Ed Shahady eshahady@att.net

Volume I, Issue I Fall 2010

## Class of 1960 Celebrates Its 50th Creates 50 year club and performs Gambol revisited

The class of 1960 stormed the WJU campus in June and re-created memories from 50 years ago. Friday evening began with the **inauguration of the 50 Year Club**. Al Reed (1960) the originator of the club gave an overview of the club purpose and along with Phyllis Faber and University President Sister Francis Marie Thraillkill distributed 50 year club diplomas.

Following the ceremony and dinner the crowd was treated to what a bunch of 70 plus year olds could remember about the **Gambol from 50 years ago**. The opening prayer was given by Fr. Joe Doyle and this was followed by an emotional tribute to the memory of Fr. Ed Gannon the originator of the Gambol by Sandy Piper Sonneborn.



*Phyllis Faber Kelley and Al Reed provide an overview of the 50 Year Club prior to distributing 50 Year Club Diplomas to the classes of 1959 and 1960.*



*John Mensore and Ed Shahady*



*Carolyn Cannon (leader and motivator)  
Phyllis Faber Kelley, Barry Kerrane,  
Bob Maybury, Ed Dennison, Joe Doyle,  
Marc McKonic, Sandy Piper Sonneborn,  
and Skeet Burke*

The chorus line consisting of Carolyn Cannon, Phyllis Faber Kelley, Barry Kerrane, Bob Maybury, Ed Dennison, Joe Doyle, Marc McKonic, Sandy Piper Sonneborn, Skeet Burke (pictured below) entertained us with “Hey Look Me Over”, “On the Sunny Side of the Street”, “Carolina in the Morning” and “Those were the days”.

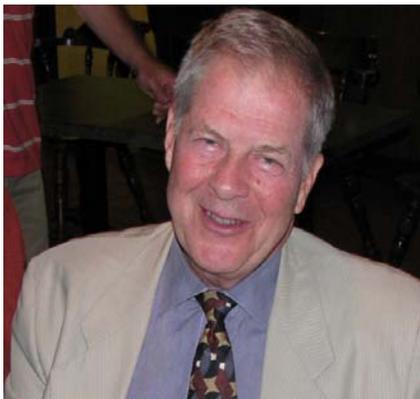
More great memories were provided by Fred Caruso (“Day-O”), Pio Tei (“Sorrento” and “Long ago and far away”), John Mensore (“Songs by Sinatra”). Don Mercer led us through a medley of “Beatles Songs” on his clarinet. Ed Shahady was MC. Ed brought Ducknik back to the stage.

Go to <http://wju50.blogspot.com/> to see videos of the Gambol and 50 year club ceremony. Thanks to Robert Reed (Al’s son) for all his expertise with the video and this newsletter.

## 50 Year Club Created

Al Reed and Ed Shahady are working with the alumni council to further develop the 50 Year Club. The club will have its own set of by-laws and leadership. Initial goals of the club include an annual meeting and induction of new members at every 50th reunion, creation of senior scholars (alumni) who would volunteer their time to describe the value of a Jesuit education to their careers and life, and encourage the development of a legacy fund for each 50 year class. The class of 1964 has already started its legacy fund by pledging to raise \$250,000 for a scholarship by the time of their 50th anniversary. Representatives of the next few 50 year classes are currently developing the future guidelines for the club.

## Class of 1961 Planning Its Reunion



John Egan McAteer (*pictured*) and Bettyann Vensel Stewart are leading the effort to plan the reunion. There will be entertainment and reflections of ½ century of WJU memories. They are encouraging all members of their class and members of the classes of 59, 60, and 62 to return and join the fun with the class of 61. The 50 year club will hold its first business meeting during the reunion to include election of officers and approval of by-laws. John will soon be sending a letter to all members of the class of 1961. Watch for announcements via email and go to the our facebook page at 50 year club WJU.

## Class of 1964 Fundraising Story

In 2009, during their 45<sup>th</sup> reunion, the class of 1964 set a goal to raise \$250,000 by their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. One year into their efforts more than \$60,000 has been committed to the scholarship fund. However, class agents J.J. Lauer and Gene Julian are encouraging members to continue to make gifts and pledges to the fund. To date, 16 class members have made gifts to the Class of 1964 Ignatian Scholarship. Lauer and Julian said more help is needed in order for the class to reach its goal for its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in four years.

Lauer said he hopes other classmates will support “this ambitious endeavor to the best of their financial ability.” “Our class was blessed with an excellent Jesuit education, which

prepared us for life’s journey in many ways. In addition to the specific academic disciplines we pursued during our four years, Wheeling Jesuit gave us a broad open-minded and worldview perspective,” Lauer said. “The University instilled in each of us a sense of hard work and fair play, and it taught us to think logically and make ethical choices in life.”

The scholarship is one way members of the class of 1964 can ensure that future generations have and experience the same wonderful opportunities his class received and enjoyed during the early years of Wheeling College . The Class of 1964 Ignatian Scholarship will provide future WJU students financial assistance to make attending WJU more affordable, Lauer added.

Class member and scholarship supporter John Aluise said, “At this time in my life, I now can share some time, talent and treasure for the benefit of the institution that had a significant influence upon my values and my professional growth. The commitment that the Class of 1964 made to establish a \$250,000 endowed scholarship will help enable Wheeling Jesuit to continue to shape the lives of young men and women. I strongly encourage my fellow alumni to return some of their time, talent and treasure to a most worthy cause.



*Dr. Orr, Mike and Cheryl de Gyurky-Simay*

## Things to Think About When Planning Your 50th

It is never too early to start some planning. The key is an energetic chair that has time and is a champion of delegation and follow up. A 5 to 6 member planning committee is also essential. Class agents play a key role in both these areas and at a minimum should consider being on the planning committee. It helps to have all these folks in place a few years before the reunion. It may help planning if the group could attend another class's 50th a few years before yours occurs. This would provide an opportunity for the committee to have a face to face planning meeting and discuss ideas with the chair and planning committee of the class conducting their 50th at the time. Bring the alumni office into the planning process. They are your main contact for understanding resources and



*Barbara and Tony Basil*

how to best get things done. And nothing will happen without them on board. Kelly and Janet were critical to the success of the 50th for the class of 1960. Emails and conference calls are excellent ways to facilitate your planning. One of the other major roles of the planning committee is recruiting your classmates to come to the reunion. Don't forget those who attended but did not graduate and some of the faculty that were your professors may still be around and want to be with you. You will be surprised how many of them want to return. It will take more than one email and several phone calls for some. Be persistent and tell them we all have less hair, increased waist size, and artificial joints. The fun and good feeling generated by coming back and being with your classmates is unforgettable.

## Start Planning Your 50 Year Class Gift Now

The class of 1964 is the model for all of us to consider. As noted by their story on page two they started planning at their 45th reunion. They set a goal to raise \$250,000 by 2014 for a scholarship for future WJU students. Many of them have pledged a certain amount per month to be automatically removed from their credit card. That seems like a smart way to do it. Thirty dollars a month for 5 years would result in an \$1800 gift and \$15 a month for 5 years would be a \$900 gift. A Jesuit education is a treasure very few are able to

experience. Our gift increases the number of students who will have that chance and guarantees the high standards of a WJU education. Most of us are at a time in our lives that we can look back and realize our Jesuit education formed the foundation for our success. It is now time to give back. Give as much as you can (maybe a little more). A little bit every month from every member of your class will make a significant gift for your 50th. Let's follow the lead of the class of 1964. Let's start the ball rolling.



*Fr. McGroarty and some of the many students he "campused"*

# 50 Year Club Inaugurating Senior Scholars

The 50 year club is proposing the creation of a senior scholars program. This program will recruit senior alumni who have a sustained and distinguished career in their chosen field. These alumni (Senior Scholars) will be individuals that have been recognized by their professional organizations, and other significant institutions as leaders in their field.

Attributes that characterize a senior scholar will include community service, humanitarian effort, academic and scholarly accomplishment, corporate and business leader-

ship, and other attributes that characterize a successful and distinguished career. The scholars will be asked to volunteer their time to help the University in several ways,

- (a) address high school classes and parent teacher organizations to share the value of a Jesuit education and encourage attendance at WJU,
- (b) address foundations and other grant giving agencies encouraging funding for WJU,
- (c) return to campus and engage in classroom discussions about their field,
- (d) other functions as deemed appropriate.

A committee of current and future members of the club and alumni office will be responsible for identifying and recruiting alumni as senior scholars. Nominations will be solicited from all alumni. The program is in the formative stage. Discussion is ongoing with other alumni and school officials. At the homecoming weekend Ed and John Egan McAteer met with WJU faculty member John Whitehead and Father Jim Fleming and other alumni to discuss the program.



## Did you Know?

by Carolyn Cannon [cannon2110@gmail.com](mailto:cannon2110@gmail.com)

- John Mensore portrayed IAGO in the play "OTHELLO". IAGO is the longest part written by Shakespeare in his entire works. John's roommate Joe Doyle rehearsed the lines with him. Bravo Johnny Joe!
- Our basketball team traveled to Morgantown in 1957 to play the WVU freshmen team. Jerry West was a member of that team. Final result not so pretty.
- Who came to the fireball dressed as Sputnik? If you know let Carolyn know at [cannon2110@gmail.com](mailto:cannon2110@gmail.com)
- We need more memories to share in the newsletter. Please send information to Carolyn.
- Also need others to help with the writing and other items in the newsletter. Please send Ed an email with suggestions and contributions at [eshahady@att.net](mailto:eshahady@att.net).