



50 Year Club Newsletter

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Class of 1962 Holds 50th Reunion

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The class of 1962 returned to the campus June 22 to celebrate their reunion. Members of the planning committee were Kathy Oliver Burgoyne, Rev. John DiBacco, Jim Fornia, Mark Geary, J.L. Lyons, Andrea DiPiero Santer and Tom Santer. They worked hard to encourage classmates to attend and it was a memorable weekend.

Friday events began at 5 PM with the conferring of 50 Year Club diplomas and an address by President Rick Beyer.

Later that evening Kevin Kerrane and J.L. Lyons moderated "Memories of Our Times at Wheeling College". In addition to tributes to several former faculty, classmates recalled some of their *historic* moments. J.L. Lyons shared a wonderful tribute to Fr. Ed Gannon (pages 6-7). Their stories both humorous and serious brought back many good memories of their time at Wheeling College. Pictured below are some of the members of the class sharing their memories. Dr. Orr provided a rebuttal with his memories of the class and his years at WC/WJU.



Kathy Burgoyne receives diploma from President Beyer



JL Lyons Kevin Kerrane



Mark Geary



Tom Santer



Lou Stahl



Dr. Paul Orr

Diploma Ceremony



Andrea Santer and Tom Shahady

Andrea DiPiero Santer and Tom Shahady were moderators for the annual diploma ceremony. They reviewed the history of the ceremony and told stories about some of the older alumni. All members of the class of 1962 were given their 50 Year Club diplomas by President Beyer. This is the signature event of the 50 year reunion, and it was started in 2010 by the class of 1960. All members of the reunion class are inducted into the 50 Year Club. There are now four classes that are part of the club. For more information about the Club and its activities please go to page 12.

President Beyer's Annual Address to Alumni June 2012

Over the past eighteen months, I have met so many wonderful people and have been fortunate to develop relationships with many alumni from all years, as well as many local leaders in the Wheeling community. For those of you who do not yet know me, I am originally from Detroit and grew up in a large Polish Catholic family. I come to WJU with 24 years of senior executive officer experience in business and 16 years of board affiliation with higher education.



As the first lay president for WJU, I take very seriously my deep responsibility to our Catholic, Jesuit identity and our mission of educating women and men for life, leadership and service to others. My work here at WJU is not only about helping to shape the future and to achieve great outcomes, but to do so while making our alumni, the Jesuit Community and Bishop Bransfield proud. This past year, I became the first of the ten lay presidents at Jesuit institutions to enroll in the Ignatian Colleagues Program, an 18 month intellectual and spiritual development curriculum focused on the teachings of St Ignatius. I will commit to you that doing what is right is always a firm stake in the ground. For the class of 1962, and for all of our alumni over these fifty years, much has changed, but still much remains the same.

Three essential pillars have stood the test of time. They are: 1. Our mission to educate women and men for life, leadership, and service to others; 2. Our dedication to a philosophy of education that is rooted in Jesuit Spirituality; and 3. Our flourishing relationship with Bishop Michael Bransfield and the Catholic Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston -- the Diocese that had the foresight, along with the Jesuits, to establish this institution in 1954.

As we look at WJU today and our profiles in excellence, we can recognize the influence our mission has had on our students and faculty, and it is significant. WJU students are active participants in their own personal character development whether it is our Alpha Sigma Nu students who feed the poor, our students who live downtown at the Mother Jones House which services the underprivileged in Wheeling, our students in our Laut Scholarship Program, the Ignatian Honors program, Campus Ministry, our Application Institute, or our Mission and Identity team. Our core Jesuit academic requirements which include philosophy and religion is the most rigorous among the 28 Jesuit Institutions in the USA.

Regarding academics, our academic programs continue to thrive as a result of our dedicated faculty. Today WJU has nine separate accreditations for its academic programs. We have a history of high academic performance. 100% national board pass rates for the entire class is considered normal performance. In past academic years, we have achieved 100% pass rates in: Nursing, Nuclear Medicine, Respiratory therapy, Athletic training and Physical Therapy. It is also typical for 100% of WJU students to be accepted into medical and law schools. Academic excellence remains a trademark at WJU – consistent with the Jesuit tradition.

WJU is a research oriented institution. Research is embedded into the culture here on campus. Today we are a national leader in undergraduate research participation. At the top 10% of research universities across the country, 37% of the undergrads participate in research.

Ninety-four percent of our students report their ability to reflect on their life and their life choices grow during their four years at WJU. Our students acknowledge the influence of Jesuits in their lives. Spiritual retreats provided by our Campus Ministry team are considered by our students to be a significant part of their "WJU experience."

We have 20 NCAA Division II programs along with our Division I USA Rugby program. WJU has won 62 Conference Championships and has had 46 Academic All Americans. Music is back on campus. Specifically, WJU now boasts a symphonic band and pep band which was launched last year in partnership with River City Brass out of Pittsburgh. I offer a very special thank you to Don Mercer ('60) for being the catalyst for this special project.

So, as we educate the whole person and prepare our students for life, leadership and service, it is only natural that WJU alumni would have the tools to live our institutional motto -*Luceat Lux Vestra* -- Let your light shine!

"Your money supports these programs and many others.
Join me by donating to make a difference."
- Ed Shahady, WJU class of 1960

LUCEAT LUX VESTRA



2012 PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

VIBRANT STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Real world internships, career planning, and job placement

- Enhance job placement/career planning programs
- Purchase additional vans for transportation to internships and service placements

Revitalize the Performing Arts

- Support for our growing partnerships with Pittsburgh's River City Brass and the Wheeling Symphony
- Grow theater and student performance

Support the intellectual, social, physical, and spiritual integration of learning experiences

- Recruit Jesuit faculty and staff
- Scholarships for students
- Enhance Lantz Farm facilities for retreats/meetings/research
- Support the development of new retreat programs
- Physical fitness equipment for students
- Finance additional sports (rugby, wrestling, and cheering/tumbling)
- Enhance international experiences on campus and around the world

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Growing Enrollment

- Distinctive enrollment support by areas: Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Health Sciences
- Marketing to support WJU awareness to every Jesuit high school in the world
- Alumni in Recruitment support
 - Name buys of high school scholar candidates
 - Upgrade of technology support
 - Open House support



CAMPUS RENOVATION

Upgrades and Campus Repairs

- McHugh roof and interiors (including AC)
- Sara Tracy/Kirby roof
- Expand Mission & Identity offices
- Benedum Room roof patio
- Arts/Music practice space
- Student lounges
- Athletic facilities

"The strategic planning process has provided us with a roadmap and a living document that sets high expectations and provides a path that will take WJU to new heights of SUCCESS." - Rick Beyer, WJU President

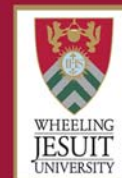
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GIFT
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online at www.wju.edu/advancement

or send your gift today to:

WJU Office of Advancement,
316 Washington Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003

Please call us if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting: 304-243-2224



Class of 1963 Planning 50th Reunion-June 21-23, 2013

The planning committee—Roann Burris Wojcik, Terri Grammer Haid, Tony Kemper, Don Powers, Ron Vogrin, Charles Lloyd, Aimee Noonan, Mary Ellen Dyar Maybury and Steve Haid (pictured below from l-r) is busy planning for a memorable weekend. They are assisted by Kelly & Janet in the Alumni Office. Roann



and Terri are co-chairs for the committee. Don Powers is preparing a PowerPoint with pictures of the class, Tony Kemper is leading the phone tree to call all members of the class, Ron Vogrin and Charles Lloyd are creating the evening entertainment after dinner and Steve Haid is organizing the effort for the class gift.

Activities will begin at 5 PM with a conferring of the 50 Year Club diplomas by President Rick Beyer. This will be followed by the President's Reception and dinner in Benedum Room. About 8 PM the entertainment will begin. The only hint I have is that it will be called "Memory Nights". It will surely include the most vivid memories from members of the class of 1963.

A block of rooms has been reserved at Hampton Inn-Wheeling. When you call, mention the Class of 1963 so that you get the discounted rate. Rooms fill up fast and if you wait until the last 6 to 8 weeks you may be staying in Ohio or Pennsylvania. The Alumni Office will be sending out information about the reunion and also offer the option of staying on campus. These rooms also go quickly.

Memories From Norm Koehler '63

When Fr. Gordon Henderson (Gordo) became the sophomore men's proctor, his early warning system alerted him to major problems arising out of the Spanish class. When talking to one of the Bacchanals (Steve Haid?) about how things were going, the response was, "Not very good." Everybody flunked the last Spanish test and Charlie Lloyd was planning to drop out of school. Gordo came to the room to round up Charlie, gave me a \$10 bill and asked me to go to the liquor store for a bottle of scotch. I said, "I can't do that. It's 8 minutes to 8:00." Gordo replied, "Well, run!" as he hustled Charlie off to his room for a chat. I returned with the bottle and knocked on the door. Gordo propped the door open a quarter of the way, grabbed the scotch and his change and closed the door before I realized what was happening. I recall that I thought it wasn't quite right for me to RUN to the liquor store to bring back the scotch and not even get offered a drink.



Gordo realized from his discussion with Charlie that quite a few of the members of Senor Goitz's class were at risk. He told Charlie, "Hang in there and I will teach a make-up class in Spanish this summer for everyone who needs it." And he did. Many came to the make-up class. Gordo was supported by Dr. Hartung, who showed up every day around lunchtime with a couple of buckets of potato salad.

NOTE: Gordo did an effective enough job that Charlie was assigned temporary duty as liaison to the Spanish Navy. He received exemplary ratings from the Spanish Admiral he worked for.

Another example of Gordo's team-building approach was the spaghetti dinner. Discussing the progress of the guys in the class of '63 in her English class, Natalie White said, "Oh, Gordon, they're hopeless. They just don't get it. (continued on next page)

(Norm Koehler-Continued from page 4)

"I don't know if they don't want to learn or they can't, but there isn't a bright light among them." With that, the plan for the Dr. White tribute was born. There would be a spaghetti dinner with entertainment: the guys in her class would perform "Pyramus and Thisbe" in honor of her and sophomore women.

The casting was superb from Joe Niedenberger at 6'3" being the "chink in the wall" to Steve Lindenmyer who was about half Joe's size portraying the "mighty lion." They had a couple of rehearsals and the show went on. Everyone drew laughs for their lines, but Steve brought down the house with his, "I am the mighty lion. Roar. Roar."

The next time he saw her, Gordo asked, "Natalie, how did you like the performance?" She gushed, "Oh, Gordo, it was magnificent! I didn't know what a bunch of budding thespians my boys were. They were brilliant. There was so much individual talent there." Gordo said he had to chuckle when the hopeless class became "my boys!" They all did well in Dr. White's class after that and, as I write this, I wonder if it was because she saw them more as individuals with different skills and talents, or whether they had a sense that she wasn't as foreboding as presumed, or whether it because they now saw English as something other than dry reading, memorizing and writing, something more akin to theatre or performance art, or all of the above.

I am certain that my 1963 classmates in Whelan Hall feel blessed that, at a confusing time in our lives, a kind Jesuit priest was unselfish enough and cared enough to help us find our way. Thanks, Gordo.

50 Year Club Annual Lecture

Conducted at the reunion, this year's lecture was a panel discussion moderated by Ed Shahady '60. The topic was "Is A Liberal Arts Education Needed For All Students?" The panelist were Rev. Jim O'Brien, S.J. Monica Kennison, PhD, Chair, Nursing Dept. and Kevin Kerrane, PhD '62, Professor of English at University of Delaware. **Father Jim** offered that the Classics train the imagination, and open the entire mind. *Cura Personalis* is a Latin phrase meaning "care for the whole person," which is the responsibility of each Jesuit and professor. He recommended a book, "Heroic Leadership," by Chris Lowney. This book cites what each individual student needs: Self Vision (Knowledge), Creativity, and Love.

There is an invaluable role that liberal arts play in the total education of the person. Liberal arts education enables students to sort out what talents they possess.

Monica Kennison stated that those in the health field must have an understanding of the human experience. They have to be empathetic as well as have full knowledge of medicine and pharmacy. A liberal arts education encourages a broader base way of thinking. It discourages students from jumping to conclusions. RN's with a liberal arts degree have a better understanding of patients as opposed to those with only a nursing education.

Kevin Kerrane confirmed that our education at Wheeling Jesuit equipped us both to make a living, and make a life—in other words (a) to build careers and (b) to confront deeper questions of moral value.

The skills of analysis and communication equipped us for the modern marketplace. Cheryl Greenberg in the *New York Times* stating that, "Every ten years, jobs and fields change. It is necessary then to think creatively, read critically, construct arguments using persuasive evidence, write clearly, remain flexible, and look at issues with an open mind." We had to PERFORM our knowledge in small classes, steady writing assignments, and oral exams. We were also challenged to live up to the ideals of liberal education. In this context, the word "liberal" carries the mean of its Latin root, meaning "free." This is an education befitting a free person as opposed to a slave (or a slave to habit or ideology) enabling one to be a good citizen and a good neighbor rather than, say, a gullible consumer or an easily swayable voter.

College students in America have usually not been required to decide at 18 what they're going to be doing the rest of their lives. Michael Oakeshott calls this "the gift of interval" between adolescence and adulthood, when young minds can be encouraged to ask all sorts of practical and philosophical questions. We received great encouragement at Wheeling.



Fr. Jim O'Brien, Monica Kennison, PhD, Kevin Kerrane, PhD, during the panel discussion.

Tribute to Fr. Ed Gannon by J.L. Lyons

I always considered Fr. Gannon a very classy guy. In the summer of 1956, he called me one day and said: "J.L., I'm in Parkersburg on school business and I'd like to take you to lunch." We made arrangements to meet, and I was so excited. I had just completed my freshman year at the college with the original class and during that year I got to know Fr. Gannon quite well and I came to love the man. I thought he walked on water -- he was the smartest man I had ever met -- he was my favorite professor by far, and in my mind I thought I was his favorite student.

At Father's suggestion, we drive to Marietta, and he takes me to a small, very exclusive restaurant. I'd never been there before. The menu was in French and I didn't speak any French. Indeed, according to Fr. Kernan, who taught Speech the first year, I didn't speak English very well, either. But, being cool, I said, "Father, why don't you order for the both of us," and he did.

A few minutes later, the waiter brings out two small cups of soup. Father Gannon takes a spoonful of his soup and I take a spoonful of mine and I pause a bit. Father looks at me and says: "What's the matter J.L., don't you like the soup?" And I say: "Well, I don't know about your soup Father, but mine's ice cold. I think we ought to send it back and get them to heat it up." He smiled and gently explained to me: "J.L., this is 'vichyssoise'; it's a French soup and it's supposed to be served cold. As, they say in France, 'The colder, the better.'" And I say to myself, "Wow, is this a classy guy, or what?"

As we pay tribute to and reminisce about Fr. Gannon during this 50th Reunion Weekend, many of us like to think that Fr. Gannon's true love as a teacher and mentor was Wheeling College. But over time I've come to learn and accept that we didn't have a monopoly on Fr. Gannon. The seven years he spent here -- 1955 to 1962 -- although so very productive and so very important to us -- were less than a third of the twenty-two years he spent at Scranton University -- 1964 to 1986. And, during those twenty-two years right up until his death in 1986, Father Gannon influenced Scranton students in the same magical way as he did with us.

A few years ago I came across a blog in which one of his former Scranton students describes him and the impact Fr. Gannon had on his life. I would like to share the blog with you. See if it doesn't bring back memories of the Fr. Gannon we knew.

The student writes: It was during my freshman year that I met a Jesuit named Edward Gannon. He was a little annoying at first. He would walk into the cafeteria during breakfast and lunch and invite himself to sit at any table that piqued his curiosity. He was notorious for asking some deep philosophical question at the breakfast table. Since I was barely able to cope with runny eggs, I let my table mates deal with the crazy Jesuit.



The discussions sometimes seemed to come out of left field. He would ask questions about classes, relationships, religion, the world and the universe. I was very much on my guard around him initially. Father Gannon was a campus legend. He was much bigger than his diminutive frame and he had a commanding, reassuring presence wherever he went. Outside or in his office he usually had a cloud around him from the ever present cigarette in his hand. When not in his roman collar he was usually in a turtleneck and a cardigan. He was like a weird hybrid of Albert Einstein and Mr. Rogers. To say that he was intelligent would be a gross understatement. Father Gannon was granted the title of University Professor which meant he could teach in any department in the University. His classes were impossible to schedule because upperclassmen would take every available space. You should not assume that a class with Gannon was an easy A. You had to work to meet his incredibly high standards. He was not willing to accept anything less than what he thought you were capable of giving. He was not just teaching us philosophy or theology, he was teaching us to think, to question, to challenge. If we learned philosophy or theology along the way, so much the better.

After the movie "The Empire Strikes Back" hit the streets at the end of my sophomore year, many of us were convinced that Yoda was channeling Gannon. He was also the genius behind the Fall Review, an annual talent show that packed the Gunster Auditorium every October. Despite the fact that I can not sing and I have two left feet, he saw fit to put me in the chorus for the shows in 1980 and 1981. Fr. Gannon took an interest in me. It became apparent that he knew much more about me than I had revealed. I guess you could say that he saw right through me. He picked up pretty quickly that I was the son of an alcoholic and we had many long conversations about my father's alcoholism. With Father Gannon's help (continued next page)

Tribute to Fr. Gannon (continued from page 6)

I got to a point where I could have a relationship with my own father. (The student goes on to describe an event in his past unrelated to his father's alcoholism that led him to a debilitating bout of depression while at Scranton and how Fr. Gannon helped him to overcome this depression.) He sums up Fr. Gannon's impact as follows: Given the state I was in and the helplessness I was feeling, I knew I was not acting rationally. Those hours spent with Fr. Gannon kept me in school and probably saved my life. For that, and many other things, I will be eternally grateful to him. He then concludes: When I attended my 25th class reunion in 2007, I walked up to Gannon Hall, as if to pay my respects to the man who talked me off the ledge. I wonder if the students living in that building now have any idea of the lasting impact that man had on generations of students? After reading the blog, I sent the following comment: Thank you so much for your insightful article on Fr. Gannon. Your blog truly captures the spirit and the humanity of the man so many of us loved at Wheeling College where I graduated in 1962. I visited Fr. Gannon in Scranton not long before his death, and I was able to attend his funeral. There is no doubt that he was the most influential person in my life -- a mentor, a true friend, and a spiritual inspiration. It always amazed me that his heart was so big that he could relate to hundreds, perhaps, thousands, who came in contact with him, with the effect that the person thought he or she was the only one that Fr. Gannon was interested in and loved. I still think of him with warm affection as I did over 55 years ago when I started Wheeling College.

Now, I would bet good money that there are many of you in this room who still to this day believe in your heart of hearts that you were Gannon's favorite student; that he loved you the most; and that you had a special one-on-one relationship with **him** that no other student had. What was it about **Fr. Gannon** that enabled him to have such a profound effect on so many of us -- what I call "The Gannon Phenomenon."

The explanation, I submit, is that **he** practiced in the truest and purest sense what the Jesuits call "Cura Personalis," a Latin phrase that translates as "Care **F**or the Entire Person." The expression is a hallmark of Ignatian spirituality and it is commonly used by old-time Jesuits, like **Fr. Gannon**, to describe the responsibility that each Jesuit has -- to care for each student individually with his or her unique gifts, challenges, needs and possibilities. Fortunately for us, all of the Jesuits we had here at Wheeling strove

diligently to practice "Cura Personalis." But, in my mind, no one did it better than Ed Gannon.

In preparing these remarks, I spoke with Professor Richard Klonoski, professor of philosophy at Scranton University. He like me, often marveled at Fr. Gannon's ability to impact the lives of so many students in such a powerful and lasting way. Professor Klonoski said "I first met Fr. Gannon in 1970 as a freshman at Scranton. Fr. Gannon was my teacher, my confidant, my friend, and a colleague in the Philosophy Department. I was a pall bearer at his funeral. Fr. Ed Gannon stirred in me a passion to know and appreciate myself as a unique person, to know my potentialities, my promise. But equally importantly, he stirred in me a passion to become for others what he had become for me." Another professor I spoke with at Scranton stated that Fr. Gannon set the bar for other teachers to emulate. Those faculty members who dazzled students in the classroom and achieved very high teaching evaluations were said to be "Gannonesque."

In sum, whether Wheeling College or Scranton University was Fr. Gannon's true love as a teacher and mentor we will probably never know for sure. But, what I do know for sure, is that I am extremely thankful that this classy guy, who knew all about cold soup, came into my life, and I know first-hand that many of you are equally thankful that he came into your lives in such a special way.

At this point, Fr. Gannon is probably saying, "J.L., put on your black tails and sailor straw hat, get out your cane, and go out there and dance "Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey, Won't You Come Home," like I made you do at the first Gambol in the Spring of 1956, and stop, just stop all of this overly reverential stuff." Well, Father, I'm four days shy of 75 and I'm a little too old and slow to dance Bill Bailey, so I'll just close with this prayer for you -- my dear friend, my mentor, and my spiritual teacher: Eternal rest grant unto Fr. Gannon, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all those wonderful Jesuits who inspired us -- not only as students at Wheeling College but during our entire lives -- through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

J.L. delivering his tribute



Alumni Scholar in Residence by Kelly Klubert

Four days of in-class discussion and a public forum highlighted the first Alumni Scholar in Residence presentation held last November. Dr. Ed Shahady '60 (pictured to the right) served as the first Alumni Scholar in Residence and presented talks to several health science classes serving as a visiting professor for a week. During his talk at the public forum, Dr. Shahady talked about "The Current State of Health Care (Health Care Reform)."



More than 100 alumni, friends and students listened to his talk at the public forum. The new Alumni Scholar in Residence Program was born from the alumni association's 50 Year Club and began with the assistance of Academic Vice President Dr. Stephen Stahl, University Vice President Rev. James Fleming, S.J. and Alumni Director Kelly Klubert. All expenses incurred by the alumni scholar are donated, as a gift, to their *alma mater*. "We are very grateful to Ed and to all our 50 Year Club alumni, who have supported this new learning initiative. Our distinguished alumni are valuable to the University and our students, faculty and the entire community. We will all benefit from this new program," said Fr. Fleming.

Dr. Shahady, a family physician, graduated from Wheeling Jesuit in 1960 and went on to earn his medical degree at West Virginia University. He is also board-certified in clinical Lipidology and has contributed more than 180 scientific articles and five books to the medical literature. He entered academic medicine in 1976 and has been a professor of Family Medicine at the Universities of North Carolina, Florida, Miami and Florida State. Now semi-retired he remains active in teaching as the medical director of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians Foundation Diabetes Master Clinician Program.

For Bill Floria, Wheeling Jesuit University is a Family Affair.

After Bill Floria, Sr., graduated from Wheeling College in 1964, he hoped one of his children would follow in his footsteps. He had no idea that he would not only have a son, Bill Floria, Jr. '84, attend, but three grandsons, Joey '11, Michael and Stephen Probert. Wheeling Jesuit has a history of alumni legacies. The Glens, Carrigans, SanTERS, DiPieros and Shahadys are just a few examples of families who sent multiple members and generations to the University.

His son, Bill, graduated from Wheeling College in 1984, and they were followed by grandsons Joey, Michael and Stephen. In the fall, the three Proberts will be enrolled as students at WJU — Joey, in his second year of the physical therapy program, Michael, a junior athletic training major and Stephen will be a freshman.

"I'm tremendously proud of them. These are three wonderful boys who will get a lot from Wheeling and will give back a lot too," said Floria, Sr. The three agreed there was no pressure to attend Wheeling Jesuit but they did not want us to overlook it. When Michael was exploring colleges, he admits, "I was looking for somewhere like Wheeling Jesuit. I found I couldn't find anywhere else like it, so I decided I should go there." The youngest Probert brother, Stephen, admits looking around at other colleges for a place similar to Wheeling Jesuit too. "When I narrowed down my choices, I found Wheeling Jesuit was the right place for me. I felt welcomed," he explained. The brothers admit its fun hearing their grandfather and uncle tell stories about what Wheeling College was like in the 1960's and 1980's. "It's hard to believe my grandfather lived in Swint Hall and that Donahue was the only academic building back then," said Michael Probert. One thing each family member agrees on about Wheeling Jesuit — the feeling of being a part of a family still remains.

Bill Floria, Jr. said over the years he's shared stories about Last Blast and life in the dorms. "These traditions are still at the core of what Wheeling is about. The physical campus has changed, but the heart of the campus — that feeling of family — is still the same today. The beauty of Wheeling Jesuit is that you always feel like you get a hug when you are there or with members of the community. You don't get that same feeling other places."

Michael Probert, Bill Jr. '84, Bill Sr. '64, Joey Probert '11 and Stephen Probert



Recalling the Pains of War By Pete Carroll '60

I know it was a weeknight, either a Tuesday or Wednesday, during the week between Christmas and New Years in 1966. I was sitting in an airplane at O'Hare in Chicago about to leave for a short trip for a meeting the next day in Green Bay, Wisconsin. It was around dinner time and dark. I had a window seat and was looking out of it at the bitter cold typical that time of year in Chicago. The pilot made a short announcement before we pulled away from the gate telling the 12 or so passengers on board (with about 120 empty seats--- who goes to northern Wisconsin in late December?) that we had to wait while an incoming flight from San Francisco unloaded some baggage that had to get up to northern Wisconsin on our flight. When I looked out the window I saw one of those gurneys you see in airports heading towards us. Walking with it were three military people in uniform and a number of civilians, about 6 I think. As the gurney got closer I saw the two flag draped coffins on it and watched it close in on our plane. A few moments later we could hear the cargo door shut and the civilians and military then got on board the with us. One of the civilians, a couple of years younger than I was at the time, sat down in the aisle seat in the row where I had the window. He liked to talk. One of the coffins, he told me, had his older brother in it, a former athlete from a small town in northern Wisconsin who had enlisted about **six** months earlier. His family couldn't actually see him in the coffin. He was too ummmm---mangled was the word he used. Long story short, we talked all the way up to Green Bay and I went with them the next morning to their little town and watched the funeral. The other dead soldier, I'm sure, had a similar affair in his town. The brother didn't know exactly where the other soldier was from, but it had to be close by.

The war had come to small town USA. A small town in northern Wisconsin with a tiny memorial to its dead from WW1 and WW2 and one name from the Korean "conflict". Now it was time for a VietNam memorial.

By the time the Tonkin resolution passed I had been in and out of the military. When I was on active duty we never talked about VietNam. Good grief, none of us even knew where it was. That soon changed. I think our whole world changed. It's still changed. VietNam was a horrible experience with deaths brought to towns all over America. Horrible wounds. There was not only a dislike but sometimes a hatred of those who participated by those who didn't. The problem with that of course is that a number of the complainers didn't know who was the bad guy. Who was right? Well, nobody. Who was wrong? Everyone else.

We hated ourselves I think and those whom we elected but the hate was so non-directional. I saw almost all of it. I was all over the place during that time, spending time in San Francisco-Berkley-Columbia-New York and it just always got worse. What started as protest turned into moral combat. Our troops and police shot our people. Our people plotted for ways to hurt, no, destroy our law enforcement. And to take a quote from a different but equally emotional movement, "the band played on."

I didn't really participate, I mostly just watched---it was just awful. Awful. The very people who should have led, had no idea there was even a conflict, and that there was no political statement to make. Each side was equally at fault (Dems and Reps both). Fearful of decision, fearful of what everyone might say, fearful of whatever was done would infuriate one half of the population. If we have a divide today, if we are split, it began back then.

To those who actually participated in and around the Vietnam era, you're the best. Sheehan's "Bright Shining Lie" had to be written, but I'm sorry it was. Madow touched on all of our lives in "Drift" and there are a hundred other lesser books about the time. But honest to God-----thanks for doing it. I never met anyone who would do it again.

There was once a senator who when asked his advice about how to deal with VietNam suggested that we just declare ourselves the winner and leave. That made (and makes) perfect sense to me. We leave about two years production of military hardware on whatever battlefield we mar anyway so let's just leave it earlier and scoot. The prayer of course is that we have learned, and that we are somehow wiser.

So much to understand.....

And on we go.

What Wheeling Jesuit Means to Me by Marsha Michel '02

It might sound a bit cliché but Wheeling Jesuit University totally changed my life! I left home at 19 years old to attend WJU against the wishes of my family who wanted me to stay closer to home in New Jersey. I wanted to be independent, to travel, to figure out who I was, and I knew this wouldn't be possible if I stayed in New Jersey. The Wheeling community became my new extended family – and I will always be grateful.

As if it were yesterday, I remember perfectly the night that I arrived at Wheeling after twelve hours on a Greyhound bus. It was bitter cold, with ice on the streets, and no one around. I called Jennifer Decker, the admissions counselor who recruited me. She immediately came to pick me up, greeting me warmly with a hug. We drove to campus, and she showed me my room at Ignatius Hall.

The next few days were hectic as I filled-out tons of financial aid papers to determine if I would even be able to attend the university. When I arrived at Wheeling, I didn't have outside financial support; I had one hundred and fifty dollars to my name and the dream of a higher education. In the end, I was able to attend Wheeling Jesuit University with student loans. It was divine providence!

Being African-American, I am often asked why I attended a school in West Virginia! My response has always been that it's the best thing that ever happened to me. Yes, there weren't many people of color at Wheeling Jesuit, but it didn't matter. I was open to the possibilities, and that made all the difference. It didn't matter at all to my friends, nor to my professors.

Wheeling Jesuit became my home. I was surrounded by wonderful professors, caring Jesuits, thoughtful and loving friends from all walks of life. I was in an environment where I excelled academically and socially. I became part of something greater, and I was happy.

Some of my time at Wheeling was spent volunteering at the soup kitchen downtown. The kitchen was run by a nun. Also, during school breaks I volunteered in the Appalachian Mountains and Kentucky building houses. Appalachia was amazingly beautiful, but I was struck by the level of poverty that existed in our own country.

By attending WJU, I realized my full potential. The experience was a stepping stone for the achievements that were to follow in my life.

Since leaving Wheeling, I moved to Washington, DC to pursue a career in International Affairs. I obtained a Masters in International Affairs from American University School of International Service. I have since worked in Brazil, Panama, and Haiti, and recently returned from two years in Afghanistan working with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Afghanistan was the most difficult assignment yet of my career. I was an American woman in a Muslim country, not speaking the local language, working in a militarized, insecure environment - all while trying to deliver quality social development programs. From my base in rural Afghanistan, I had to remain grounded, finding peace while working with local organizations to promote education programs for women and girls.

I have an amazing career which takes me at times to exotic and difficult places, but I continually ground myself with the Jesuit tradition to serve others born from my time at Wheeling.

Editors note—I met Marsha at this year's reunion. I encouraged her to write her story to demonstrate the capability of our graduates. We need a vibrant diverse student body to meet our catholic vision.





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50 Year Club Wheeling Jesuit University

The idea for the club was created by Al Reed during the class of 60 reunion planning. The other members of the planning committee composed of Phyllis Faber Kelly, John Mensore, Carolyn Cannon, Sandy Piper Sonneborn, and Ed Shahady enthusiastically endorsed the idea. Al did all the research and provided the structure for the first diploma ceremony that was conducted in June of 2010 during the 50 year reunion of the class of 60.

The club is an adjunct organization of the Alumni Council. It's

Members of the class who are unable to attend will receive a certificate by mail. **The 50 year club lecture** provides an opportunity for alumni to hear from faculty and a alumni member about a topic of general interest. The 2011 topics were "What's new about educational programs at WJU" and "Jesuit values at WJU- are they still here?" The topic for 2012 is "Value of a liberal arts education-is it important". Being a **senior ambassador** is an honor and a responsibility. Ambassadors volunteer to aid the university with fundraising, enrollment and student mentoring.

The **alumni scholar in residence** is a visiting professor

50 Year Club Web Site created at www.50yearclubwju.org go to the site to view reunion pictures and prior newsletters for past 3 years

Fifty Year Club Clothing

By Carolina PRINTWORKS (Owner, Doug Aigner '61)



This T-shirt is made by Eagle USA and is a performance polyester dri-fit tee—very light and can be worn by all ages. It is gray with Wheeling Jesuit on the front, the fifty year logo on the left sleeve and class year on the right sleeve. This is a unisex shirt in sizes small thru 4XL. For sizes above XL add \$3.00 per size up grade.

This years golf shirt is made by Outer Banks and is a Dri-Fit premium 100% performance, microfiber polyester. It is white, embroidered with WJU on the left chest and has the 50 year logo on the left sleeve. (Modeled by Doug Aigner) Styled separately for men and women and available in sizes small to 3XL. Add \$3.00 per shirt for each size above XL.

These are beautiful shirts chosen for their premium value, superb softness and excellent quality. Price for both shirts \$65.00. The price includes shipping to your home and a \$10 donation to the 50 Year Club.

Other items are available and may be viewed at

<https://sites.google.com/site/carolinaprintworks>

To place an order or for additional information,

Please call Doug at 704-637-6902



50 Year Club

The Club officers were elected June 2011 for a two-year term: President - Ed Shahady, 1st Vice President - Al Reed, 2nd Vice President - Dan Haller, Secretary - Carolyn Cannon, and Members at Large - Don Mercer and Leo Flanagan.

By-Laws: Active Membership: (1) All graduates of Wheeling Jesuit University upon the 50th anniversary of the graduation of his or her class. (2) All former members of the class who have attended at least one semester.

Charter Membership: indicating the original or founding members shall be open to all members of Classes of 1959 and 1960 who are qualified for Active membership.

Honorary Membership: shall be extended to the President of Wheeling Jesuit University and to any other friend of the university.

Posthumous Membership: shall be open to those who were otherwise eligible for active membership but are deceased prior to the 50th anniversary of the class.

Annual Meeting: Conducted at the time of the 50 year reunion.

By-Law Changes: Recommended by the executive committee and approved by the members at the annual meeting

Executive Committee: Consists of all four officers, members at large, the immediate past president, the alumni director and a representative of the Alumni Council. This committee serves as the governing body of the organization. The president of the organization will serve as chair of the committee. The executive committee shall meet periodically by conference call or in person if needed. These meetings will be called by the Chair. The committee will meet in person at least one time a year at the time of the 50th reunion.

Committees: Committees and task forces can be appointed by the President and or Executive committee as needed.

Senior Ambassadors: Senior Ambassadors are part of the WJU 50 Year Club. Inaugural nominees will be graduates from the classes of 1959 through 1968 who have distinguished themselves through one or more of the following: volunteer community service, humanitarian efforts, academic accomplishments and a successful career.

Being a WJU Senior Ambassador is both an honor and a responsibility. Ambassadors are asked to commit their time, dedication and expertise to the school that helped lay the foundation for their successful careers. **This commitment will include one or more of the following: Recruit potential students to WJU, Aid current students with career advice, Cultivate interest in WJU and its projects, Encourage fellow alumni and others to support WJU fund raising activities.** The Senior Ambassadors group met today June 22, 2012 to discuss their future activities. There are 52 individuals who have volunteered to be senior ambassadors. The group meets once a year at the annual reunion and periodically by conference call.

Alumni Scholar in Residence: This program was initiated by the 50 Year Club as the Senior Scholar Program. The University Faculty with the leadership of Academic Vice President Steve Stahl and Fr. Jim Fleming suggested a change of name to Alumni Scholar in Residence in order to not limit the choices to senior alumni.

The scholar will be a visiting professor to the University for up to one week and all expenses will be donated by the scholar. A committee composed of alumni and faculty will make recommendations to the WJU administration of the individuals who will be considered as future Alumni Scholars. The initial scholar was Ed Shahady, M.D. '60, and he was on campus Oct. 30 thru Nov. 4th 2011. Joan Doverspike Davison, Ph.D. '78 was the second scholar, and was on campus Oct. 3-5 2012.



Cindy Beyer receiving her honorary 50 year club diploma from Club 2nd Vice President Dan Haller