



50 Year Club Newsletter

Editor Ed Shahady '60 eshahady@att.net

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50 Year Club—Past and Future Contributions

It's another year for those that are reading this issue of the Newsletter. This is the 9th year for the newsletter, a project of the 50 Year Club. Ed Shahady '60 has been the editor since the inaugural issue in the fall of 2010. Janet Nolan provides editorial assistance and oversees distribution. All 21 past issues of the newsletter can be found online at wju.edu/alumni/50yearclub/newsletters.asp. Each one can be downloaded as a PDF. Classes from 1959 thru 1967 can view memories written by their classmates and others. It brings back many good memories from your time at WJU. Since our creation we have interacted with four University presidents and helped them with the many issues that face the University. Fund raising has been one of our major contributions. Another club innovation has been the formation of the Senior Ambassadors. Leaders from the first 15 classes are the current Ambassadors. Five years ago senior ambassadors encouraged their classmates to make significant financial donations to our University. Over the past five years, Ambassador efforts have raised over 1.7 million dollars in support of University efforts. One hundred and forty seven new members from the **Class 1967** officially became members of the 50 Year Club in June. Thirty four members of the class were present to accept their diplomas in person. During the ceremony, they presented a reunion gift of \$50,000 to Dr. Debra Townsley, Wheeling Jesuit's President.

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Other Significant Activities of the 50 Year Club

Members of the **Class of 1962** celebrated their 55-Year Reunion. They presented a reunion gift of \$25,000 to Dr. Townsley, and the funds were used to renovate/create two tech savvy classrooms in Donahue Hall.

David Quinn '67 was the guest speaker at the 50 Year Club Discussion - His topic was: What You Should Know About Criminal Justice Reform.

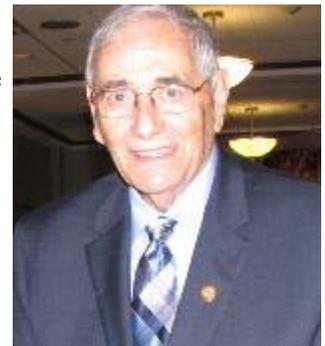
The OVERDRIVE Challenge raised a total of \$95,000, exceeding the original campaign goal of \$50,000. The Senior Ambassadors can be very proud of all their hard work. Their fundraising efforts for Fiscal Year 2017 (including the matching funds from June 24th) amounted to a total of \$373,408.

The Planned Giving committee held a presentation during Alumni Weekend, which was led by alumnus **Tom Piè '77**.

Kathy Oliver Burgoyne '62 was inducted into the Hall of Honor, **Jim DiPiero '67** was awarded the Pedro Arrupe Distinguished Alumni Award, **Tim Daly '67** was inducted into the Hall of Honor.

Appalachian Institute—50 Year Club Lecture by Dan Haller '61

The Appalachian Institute, founded in 2002, is named to honor the Reverend Clifford M. Lewis, the first Jesuit to reside in Wheeling and one of the founding Jesuits of Wheeling College. The idea for the Institute was inspired by "This Land is Home to Me", a pastoral letter written by the Catholic Bishops of Appalachia on the campus of Wheeling College in 1975. It is a prophetic document that speaks to the issue of poverty in Appalachia. In this pastoral letter, the Bishops challenged the existing economic system which has continued to render so many of those who reside in Appalachia as powerless. **The first of this new series of lectures was held on November 9, 2017.** Edward Shahady, M.D. (WJU '60) discussed the health crisis that continues to prevail in so much of Appalachia. **Shahady pointed out that health and well being are greatly influenced by the culture of where we live and the strength in connectivity of our families and communities.** The author, J.D. Vance who grew up in Appalachia and authored the highly popular book, *Hillbilly Elegy*, had this to say about the people of Appalachia. "I identify with the millions of working class white Americans of Scots-Irish decent who have no college degree. To these folks, poverty is the family tradition. Americans call them hillbillies, red necks or white trash. I call them neighbors, friends and family. Their family structure, religion, politics and social lives all remain unchanged compared to the wholesale abandonment of tradition that's occurred nearly everywhere else. (Continued on page 3)



Ed Shahady '60

Message From President Debra Townsley, Ph.D.

Dear 50 Year Club Members,

All of us at Wheeling Jesuit University have much to celebrate in this New Year. The first semester of the academic year brought many positives that I would like to highlight.

Firstly, our admissions team has been quite busy recruiting our next class. Sean Doyle, our Associate Vice President of Enrollment, reports that recruitment for the class of 2022 is in full force and the application pool is a wonderful sign of things to come. Applications and acceptances are at a ten-year high, and the Admissions team is expecting a fantastic group of Cardinals to be joining the Wheeling Jesuit family in fall of 2018.



Debra Townsley, Ph.D.

The addition of our new Simulation and Game Design academic program and football in athletics have brought new interest in Wheeling Jesuit and opened up more opportunities at the University.

Speaking of football, Head Coach Zac Bruney has been busy since his arrival last summer. From September to November, he and Assistant Coach Brandon Robinson have evaluated more than 1,100 potential student-athletes. We look forward to watching the Cardinals hit the field next fall when they play an exhibition schedule.

While students and faculty were busy in the classroom this semester, Physical Plant, Housekeeping and Student Services were putting the finishing touches on a new student lounge. The area is located on the second floor of Swint Hall, adjacent to the Troy Theater. The new lounge will provide students with an area to hold meetings, watch TV, study and relax. This addition was a direct result of conversations with student leaders, and we are happy we could make this happen.

Students finished final exams for the semester on Dec. 8. In the days that followed, Nursing and Physical Therapy students received their pins during special “pinning ceremonies” to celebrate their success. We had students and employees head to New Orleans and Pittsburgh for service trips, and our students and employees donated hundreds of items to local social service agencies to help those less fortunate during the Christmas season.

In December, we welcomed a new chief financial officer, Mr. Jeff Strader. He brings a wealth of experience to WJU, having worked in leadership roles in the private and public sectors. Jeff holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Pfeiffer University and a Master’s in Accounting from the University of North Carolina.

I’m also happy to announce we have hired Shannon Payton as our new Alumni Director. She began her new role at WJU in mid-January. Shannon has close ties to Wheeling Jesuit; her grandfather, Carson Bryan, was in the University’s first graduating class of 1959. A graduate of West Liberty University, Shannon has been the Director of Student Activities at West Virginia Northern Community College since 2008. She looks forward to meeting and working with our alumni near and far.

Wheeling Jesuit is your university and I encourage everyone to continue to be engaged in the lifeblood of your *alma mater*. Get involved – help us identify students who would benefit from a WJU education, attend athletic and alumni events, support Gaudiosa in April, make a gift, and come home in June for Alumni Weekend. Your support of Wheeling Jesuit is vital to all that we do on campus.

Thank you for your interest in Wheeling Jesuit. I wish you a very healthy and happy 2018.

Luceat Lux Vestra!

Dr. Debra Townsley President, Wheeling Jesuit University

Appalachian Institute Partners with 50 Year Club for Lecture (continued from page 1)

We do not like outsiders - especially people different than us - difference in looks, how they act and most important, how they talk.” Dr. Shahady pointed out that it is important to keep Vance’s description in mind when discussing the health issues facing Appalachia.

Shahady went on to remind his audience that the Appalachian region stretches for more than 1,000 miles from New York to Mississippi.

Portions of twelve states and all of West Virginia are included. A well research and documented publication, “Creating a Culture of Health in Appalachia: Disparities and Bright Spots,” published in August of 2017 imparted the following stark health information: First, the most economically distressed portions of Appalachia are Eastern Kentucky, Southern West Virginia and Southeastern Ohio. Access to health care is minimal and mortality is greatest in these areas. Mortality (death rates are expressed as rates per 100,000 from 2008 to 2014. During this period, the leading cause of death in Appalachia was heart disease at a rate of 204 per 100,000. The rate in West Virginia was 209 per 100,000 and much higher in Eastern Kentucky at 254 per 100,000. By contrast, the national rate was 175 per 100,000. The second leading cause of death in Appalachia during this period was cancer at a rate of 185 per 100,000. But the West Virginia rate was 197 per 100,000 whereas the national rate was 168 per 100,000. Once again, Eastern Kentucky rates were highest as 227 per 100,000.

The third leading cause of death during this period : COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) at 54 per 100,000. Dr. Shahady pointed out that this was a significant drop off in the mortality rates for heart disease and cancer. But again the national rate of 42 per 100,000 contrasted significantly with Eastern Kentucky where COPD deaths were 78.8 per 100,000. West Virginia was 64.3 per 100,000.

The diabetes mortality rate of 32.8 per 100,000 population in West Virginia was the highest rate in the Appalachian region and was 53% higher than the national figure. Other health issues in Appalachia as compared to nationally, included infant mortality (first year of life) at 16% higher than the national average. Drug overdoses were 37% higher; while the suicide rate was 17% higher. 28.4% of the people in Appalachia reported being physically inactive compared to 23.1% for the United States as a whole. Modifiable factors associated with the above diseases included elevated blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, family history, obesity, inactivity, diets high in fat and calories, smoking and exposure to coal dust.

Shahady went on to remind his audience of an environmental factor which continues to have significant health risks for Appalachian’s residents. It is what is commonly referred to as mountain top mining. Over 500 mountain tops have been removed in the Appalachian region. During this process, mining companies remove the tops of mountains in order to get at the veins of coal below. In the process, they dump rubble from the top layers into the surrounding valleys and streams below. This leads to extensive pollution. The streams and waterways thus affected have been contaminated with heavy metals such as selenium and manganese which can be toxic in high concentrations. A review published in the journal, “Science” found elevated mortality rates as well as increased incidence in lung cancer and kidney disease in counties where mountain top mining is prevalent. Another study published in the journal, “Environmental Science” found 235 birth defects per 10,000 births where mountain top mining is common in four central Appalachian states. Shahady pointed out, that’s nearly twice the rate of 144 defects per 10,000 in non-mining areas.

Dr. Shahady went on to suggest how health care providers might be more effective in dealing with the residents of Appalachia and their health issues. He suggested a model based on his own experience as a medical officer in Vietnam who helped to build a hospital there. In treating Vietnamese patients, he realized that learning to speak their language helped to facilitate a better understanding of the culture of the people he was treating. Similarly, understanding the culture and values of the residents of Appalachia will help health care professionals be more effective in treating the families of Appalachia.

Dr. Shahady closed his talk by reminding his audience that he is a product of a Jesuit education at Wheeling Jesuit University and that one of the key principles incorporated in a Jesuit education is that we should be “men and women for others.” Solving the health care issues of Appalachia will require the help of a new generation of dedicated and well trained professionals willing to be “persons for others” as they attempt to better the health and lives of those they will serve.



Appalachian Region-Source Appalachian Regional Commission

Wheeling Jesuit Names Shannon Payton Alumni Director

Wheeling Jesuit University has named Ohio Valley native, Shannon Payton, as its new Director of Alumni Relations replacing Kelly Klubert who is now director of communications and conference services for WJU.

Payton will lead the university's 10,000-plus alumni, providing guidance and leadership for alumni chapter events, the 50-Year Club and Alumni Council, as well as organizing and executing Wheeling Jesuit's annual Alumni Weekend.

Her ties to Wheeling Jesuit run deep – her grandfather, Carson Bryan, was a member of the university's first graduating class. "My first introduction to Wheeling Jesuit was through my grandfather. I grew up hearing stories about the university. He taught me what a special place it is and, thanks to my grandfather, I am lucky to have a great deal of historical knowledge about WJU. I am **Shannon Payton** very excited to be the alumni director and look forward to meeting and working with the alumni and current students," Payton explained.

For the past 10 years, Payton served as Director of Student Activities at West Virginia Northern Community College. In her role at West Virginia Northern she planned, directed, marketed and implemented student activities at the college's three campuses.

"Shannon brings a wealth of experience in event coordination and marketing that will help us broaden our alumni efforts at Wheeling Jesuit. I know she will be a great asset and leader of our alumni association. All of us at WJU welcome Shannon and look forward to working with her," said Mark Phillips, WJU Chief of Staff. Wheeling Jesuit Alumni Council President Pat Gannon '72 said, "Shannon's family connection to the university has instilled in her a deep appreciation for WJU. The members of Alumni Council welcome her to the Wheeling Jesuit family and are excited to work with her to chart a new path for the alumni association."

Payton, a resident of Dallas, West Virginia, is a graduate of West Liberty University with a bachelor's degree in education. She recently completed a Master's in Organizational Leadership from West Liberty University. Payton and her husband, Jason, are the parents of two daughters, Addison and Kendall.

Here are some memories about my grandfather Carson Bryan '59

Carson was in the first graduating class from Wheeling College (59). He was named the 1994 recipient of the Clifford M. Lewis award. My grandfather received many accolades throughout his professional career; however, none meant as much to him as the Clifford M. Lewis award. Sadly, my grandfather passed away unexpectedly October of 2015 leaving behind five children, eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. My grandfather leaves behind a legacy of service and education to many including myself. I am a lifelong resident of Dallas, WV where my grandfather set roots on a 75 acre property in the late 1970's. I had the privilege of growing up next door to my grandfather and have many fond memories of taking hikes around what he called "The Farm" and him talking about his Wheeling College days, as well as teaching me the difference in the numerous pines that surround the property that today I call home.

Anyone who knew my grandfather knew his love of golf. Golf continued to be a theme in his life whether it was giving me, his oldest granddaughter lessons, or meetings with clients with his business Diversified Financial Planners, or tournaments played with his son Callen, to penning a book titled "A Man for All Seasons". He was the Chairman of the Board of Family Services of the Upper Ohio Valley as well as the Chairman of the Board of the United Way donating funds necessary to begin the endowment fund. These traits of leadership and service have been instilled in me through his example my entire life, as well as his affinity for Wheeling Jesuit University. That being said, even though I myself am not an Alumna, please know that Wheeling Jesuit University is very important to me, and I recognize my duty to do the best I can in my grandfather's name to continue to assist the Alumni, and University as whole in the future. I am extremely excited to become a part of something that meant so much to my grandfather, and all of you! I look forward to working with you all in the future.

I am looking forward to assisting the 50 Year Club with their efforts. One of my goals is to link current students with alumni in a mentorship capacity. I believe working with the 50 Year Club, and the new career services director would be a great start! There truly are great opportunities for students to be engaged with alumni specifically through the 50 Year Club, and the Scholars in Residence program. I look forward to hearing from those in the 50 Year Club about their ideas on how to make that connection a reality.



Carson Bryan '59

Declaration of Shared Purpose of Wheeling Jesuit University With the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston And the Jesuit Community at Wheeling Jesuit University

This is a 7 page document that can be found online at wju.edu. These are excerpts from the full version.

“Purpose of the Declaration: As collaborators in the work of the apostolate of Wheeling Jesuit University, we seek to clarify the relationship among the Society of Jesus, the Jesuit community at Wheeling Jesuit University, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (hereafter, the Diocese), and the University in ways that will preserve and promote the Catholic Jesuit mission and identity of the institution and ensure that it remains both an Ignatian and a Jesuit work, co-sponsored by the Diocese, according to the descriptions from the most recent General Congregation of the Society”.

The document is divided into the Roles and Responsibilities of the University, the Maryland Province, the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston and the Wheeling Jesuit community.

The University

“The Board of Trustees of the University **holds ultimate responsibility and authority for the governance of the University**, according to its Charter and by-laws and subject to certain approval rights exercisable by the Bishop of the Diocese. As an integral part of that responsibility and as a condition for retaining the University's "Jesuit" name, the Board commits itself to maintain and promote the Ignatian heritage and Catholic Jesuit mission and identity of Wheeling Jesuit University and to pursue this commitment in partnership with the Jesuit Community at Wheeling Jesuit University, the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Charge a standing committee of the Board of Trustees with the responsibility of promoting understanding and appreciation of the Catholic Jesuit mission and identity of the University, both among the members of the Board and among the personnel of the University, and of insuring that the mission and identity of the University is reflected in the curriculum, programs, policies, and practices of the University.

Encourage the President of the University on matters of special concern to the Jesuit Community, such as mission and identity, religious practice, Ignatian spirituality, and the care and maintenance of the campus, to seek the counsel of the Jesuit Community”

The Maryland Province

“While recognizing the autonomy of the Board in the governance of the University, the Province also affirms Wheeling Jesuit University as an apostolic ministry of the Society, in co-sponsorship with the Diocese, and approves its formal use of "Jesuit" identity. The Province is committed to an ongoing collaboration with the President and Board of Trustees, the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Jesuit Community at Wheeling Jesuit University, in order to sustain and strengthen the Catholic Jesuit mission and identity of the University”.

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston-The Bishop

“The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, a co-sponsor of Wheeling Jesuit University and serving as the Sole Member of its civil Corporation, has a particular responsibility to promote the University as the only Catholic university located in the Diocese and "especially to promote and assist in the preservation and strengthening of its Catholic identity" (Ex corde Ecclesiae, 28) and to promote the general welfare of the University so that the University may fulfill its stated mission within the Church and Society. As a condition for retaining the University's "Jesuit" name, the Bishop, along with the Board of Trustees, commits himself to maintain and promote the Ignatian heritage and Jesuit mission and identity of the University. To more effectively achieve these goals, the Bishop will continue to foster the relationship among the Diocese, the Province and the University, especially through its President and its Board of Trustees, characterized by mutual trust, close and consistent cooperation and continuing dialogue.”

The Jesuit Community “The University Jesuit Community further commits to being actively involved in promoting and developing an effective collaboration in this mission with our lay colleagues (faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the Board of Trustees at the University), with special concern for the priorities of the contemporary Jesuit mission”.

(Full version can be found online at wju.edu)

Two Teens in Bethlehem-How Old Was St. Joseph When Jesus Was Born?

It is fairly certain that the Blessed Virgin Mary was in her early teens when she was espoused to Joseph the carpenter and a year or so later when she gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem. But what about St. Joseph? How old was he? Was he as old as most artists have portrayed him for the past 1600 years? Certainly not! With the exception of some Eastern Rite Catholics and Orthodox Churches, most Christian denominations now believe that Joseph was a young man. Jewish historians would agree with them because in the days of Jesus, it was the custom for girls to marry around the age of 13 and young men around the age of 18 or 19.

While the Quran devotes a whole chapter to the birth of Jesus and exalts Mary's privileged status, there is no mention of St. Joseph. Indeed, according to Islamic tradition, Mary was alone when she gave birth to her son, Jesus. One reason why artists from the fifth century to the twentieth century portrayed Joseph as an old man was because of various apocryphal writings prevalent in the early centuries of Christianity. Two examples would be the "Protoevangelium of James" and "The Story of Joseph the Carpenter," both written in the middle to late second century A.D. These "gospels" were not divinely inspired, but many people, including some saints, treated them as such.

St. Epiphanius, for example, wrote that St. Joseph was over 80 when he was espoused to Our Lady. St. Jerome, along with a number of the early Fathers of the Church disagreed with him and those who held this false opinion. Why did the authors of the apocryphal gospels write such things? Some simply wanted to "fill in the blanks" about the hidden life of Jesus, or possibly they wanted to protect the virginity of Mary. In our own lifetime, however, some holy people have seen things differently. St. Jose Maria Escriva said, "I see him (St. Joseph) as a strong young man, perhaps a few years older than Our Lady, but in the prime of his life and work". And Ven. Fulton J. Sheen in his book, "The World's First Love," writes that Joseph was probably a young man, strong, virile, athletic, handsome, chaste and disciplined. It is interesting to note that artists from the first centuries of Christianity did not always agree with the apocryphal writings. Giovanni Bernardo de Rossi (1742-1831), a Dominican theologian and historian with a special interest in Jewish language and customs, stated that in the most ancient marbles and ivories, St. Joseph is portrayed as very young and almost always beardless.

Similar images can be seen in the third century catacombs of St. Hippolytus in Rome and on the sarcophagus of St. Celsus in Milan, which is from the fourth century. It doesn't take a scripture scholar to come to the logical conclusion that the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary had to be a young man. First, it was in the plan of God that Jesus, Mary and Joseph appear as a "normal" family in the eyes of their family, friends and neighbors so as not to draw any undue attention to their hidden mystery. The identity of Jesus was to be a secret, even from the devil, until the Savior had arrived at his "hour." Second, Mary needed a young husband, not an octogenarian, to accompany and protect her and her child on their many long, dangerous journeys. This was especially true of the "flight into Egypt," but there were many other trips to Jerusalem which Joseph had to make every year, always accompanied by Jesus after he reached his 13th year. Third, Jesus needed a young, intelligent and skilled father to pass on to him the heritage of the Jewish people, as well as to teach him a trade as all the other fathers did with their sons. Craftsmen, such as Joseph, had to be especially strong because they did construction work with lumber and even iron.

What are the implications for teenagers as they consider the fact that two teens were the instruments of the Heavenly Father's plan to send his beloved Son into the world for our salvation? What an awesome privilege that was! Mary, of course, was a necessary instrument, in that the Incarnation, the Word become Flesh, could not have taken place without her "Fiat," Joseph, on the other hand, was not necessary, but he was a most fitting instrument for the reasons mentioned above. Although teens in the first century A.D. were much more mature than they are today, there are many lessons to be learned from the two teens of Bethlehem. To begin with; their initial relationship was arranged by-' God, although their parents were certainly involved, as was the custom at the time. How many teens consider serious relationships with friends to be arranged by God? And do they hold on to this idea through courtship, engagement, and finally marriage? Once God arranged the espousal of Joseph and Mary, he did not abandon them, especially in their test of faith. Mary passed the test immediately, but Joseph had to struggle until the Angel of the Lord explained to him in a dream the facts about Mary's pregnancy. One author calls this, "Joseph's Gethsemane."

Today, many teens struggle with faith issues - beliefs about religion which they can't explain to themselves or others. But Joseph was a just, righteous teen who observed the Law, much to the admiration of his contemporaries. Living a good moral life goes hand in hand with living a good faith life. So whether we are teenagers or octogenarians, we have a lot to learn from the two teens in Bethlehem. **Father Joseph Doyle, SSJ, is novice director of the Josephites and resides in Washington, D.C.**

Father Ed Gannon's "Unfinished Business" —by Kevin Kerrane, '62

After Edward Gannon left Wheeling in 1962, he taught at the University of Scranton until his death in 1986. He continued to sign his notes "EGSJ," and continued to be an immensely popular and influential teacher—honored with the title University Professor, which meant that he was entitled to offer courses in any department. Today at Scranton the annual prize for excellence in teaching is called the Gannon Award, and the university has also named a residence hall for him.



Fr. Ed Gannon

Yet his Wheeling years (1954-1962) always remained uppermost in Father Gannon's mind and heart. He stayed in close touch with many former students, and in 1985 made a special appearance at our June reunion. Perhaps the best evidence of his continuing identification with Wheeling is the draft of a 160-page story left among his personal papers. *Unfinished Business* is an academic novel, set in the late 1970s at a small liberal arts school named Farmington, which had been founded only 25 years earlier.

Farmington is obviously a remembered version of Wheeling College, with the Fire Ball in October, the Gambol (here called Spring Frolics) in April, and an earnest sense of its mission as a new Jesuit institution of learning. The main character, Julian Damon, is the school's dean, and much of the story deals with his efforts to keep his job as he contends with several sniping professors, a few sullen students, and a rigid college president. Julian is not a Jesuit—although he once was in the novitiate for 18 months, just after graduating as a member of Farmington's very first class. Now he's a middle-aged bachelor.

Julian, a former basketball star who stands 6'2", does not resemble Father Gannon physically—but he often sounds like EGJS, especially when talking seriously with students. He's a serious philosopher who has published a book on Albert Camus. (Father Gannon wrote about Andre Malraux.) More to the point, Julian has a drinking problem, similar to that of the novel's author. In his later years Father Gannon discussed his alcoholism frankly and bravely. In the novel Julian begins to reconfigure his life with the help of a Jesuit friend named Jerry Knowles. Father Knowles, often called JK, is vaguely reminiscent of another early member of Wheeling's founding faculty, Gerald ("Jerry") Kernan, especially in his love of horses and his energy as a director of student plays. (In his student days Julian had played Iago in JK's memorable production of *Othello*.) But Knowles is also another reminder of the author himself—for example, as a dynamic lecturer in philosophy, and as the founder and director of annual Spring Frolics.

The climax of the novel comes when JK dies. At the large funeral Mass, Julian addresses the whole college community, and it's worth quoting at length from his eulogy because here Father Knowles is described as the ideal Jesuit that Father Gannon strove to be. Jerry Knowles was part of the lives of a lot of us, and of mine in particular. The first faculty were twelve strong, ten of them Jesuits specially picked for this new venture. Together they gave us a sense of being a distinct and privileged group of men and women, ourselves as responsible as the faculty in launching the youngest Jesuit college. As many of you sitting there can recall for yourselves, JK's whole being was dedicated to the proposition that there are no nobodies, and certainly not at Farmington. His job, as he saw it, was to cajole, tease, suggest, insult, and, if necessary, invade—in order to convince us that we were somebodies. I heard him describe years ago what he and every adult is meant to be in the life of the young: "They have to see their value reflected in our eyes. Then they can begin to believe in themselves. And you can't turn on at will your admiration or delight in them, because they can see right through you if you're a professional reinforcer." If he ever faked it himself, I never ran into anybody who guessed it. Farmington will be twenty five years old next fall. It has lost some of the shining belief in itself we had in the beginning. But while JK lived, there was a youngster among us who was rich in inventive ideas, original insights, and fresh projects. And he carried them off. His last production of the Spring Frolics was his twenty-third. For years he directed all the plays. He launched and christened the yearbook, and devised the most interesting courses we have ever had at this college. The list could go on, but he would tell me that all that was so much chaff. One of his lines was that he had "a lot of cheaper talents." I heard him often say, with great seriousness, that the only thing that mattered was to touch lives.

He mocked himself, calling himself the *muops*, the gadfly. The fact is that he was a Christian Socrates. In the *Apology*, Plato has Socrates say: "I tell you that to let no day pass without discussing goodness and all the other subjects about which you hear me talking and examining both myself and others, is really the very best thing that a man can do, and that life without this sort of examination is not worth living." JK could have said that. I know he liked to quote it. Although a restless spirit, especially in his younger days, he had perfect timing, so that if you wanted to talk to him he made you comfortable and did not rush you or supply you with your own thoughts. He knew no small talk. In fact, when I was a student here, some of us confessed that we were initially afraid to sit with him in the cafeteria. We thought we'd bore him. "To touch lives, is to touch hearts." He touched hearts, everywhere, at all times—I suppose because his own heart was so vulnerable. Individuals wanted him to know them, and the abundance of his personal mail was proof that they wanted him to continue to know them. We have had twenty graduating classes at Farmington. JK was the source of information on most of the graduates, and I see many of you here. **(continued on next page)**

Continued from page 7 (Gannon Unfinished Business)

To touch a heart also means to make it spring with affection, to evoke gratitude. That is not done except when one is loved. Because love triggers love. So I'm talking about a faithful celibate who led the most privileged life I've ever known. And I think he knew he was loved, though he would say with shocking ease and without trace of complaint that for him love was a one-way street. He found that celibacy cost precisely this, that you belong to nobody. "Nobody will sit at my bedside, praying that I not die." I visited him as he lay dying. He couldn't talk. He knew me though. I told him I loved him. I have needed JK more than once in my life. Monday the two of us sat in my kitchen over coffee. I was in trouble, deep inside me. I am not now. Without that conversation I would not have come into any light. I have not solved my problems. But without JK I would not have started even to understand them. He touched my mind, because he touched my heart. I have often wondered how different the world would be if the Rich Young Man in the Gospels had sold all his possessions, given the money to the poor, and followed Christ. From what we know, he was the most desirable recruit Jesus could have had. He had kept the commandments from his youth, and "Jesus loved him." The Jesuits would be very different if they had not had the very rich young man we are burying today at the age of 67. The Lord Jesus has certainly already said to Jerry Knowles: "Come you blessed of my Father into the Kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world."

This eulogy expresses some of Father Gannon's deepest values, but it's not offered as a self-portrait. In the novel he clearly identifies more with the flawed Julian than the idealized Jerry. At the end of *Unfinished Business*, Julian resigns as dean and is about to embark on a sabbatical abroad, hoping for intellectual and spiritual renewal. Before he leaves, the college rector cheerfully envisions Julian's return the following year to teach philosophy at Farmington, and to become once again a vital presence on campus: "to be around all day to remind the rest of us to take ourselves less seriously, and to start paying attention to one another. . . . I envision you as the continuation of Jerry Knowles, without the S. J." *Unfinished Business* was never published. A professional editor might have said that its setting is too narrow to reach a popular audience. But the novel is a not only a window into the soul of an inspirational teacher and counselor; it's also a reminder that the small school he helped to found was—and remains—the site of universal aspirations.

Memories from Dr. Paul Orr

Edward Gannon, S.J. (his cigarette fuming:)

"The thing about Wheeling College is that here the odd ball doesn't feel odd."

Mary Louise Owens '59 in the cafeteria food line, deliberately following Fr. Hanzley in the spring 1957, and in her carrying voice:

"Are you giving Father twice as much meat as me because he is a priest? Or because he is in charge of the food service?"

Dr. Stan Goicz, to his waitress in Howard Johnsons:

"No! do not tell me you do not serve "Big Boys' I had one on here yesterday and it was delicious. That's why I came back tonight. So: one Big Boy with fries"

Dr. Wilhelmus Van Eekeren, offering one of his frequent reality checks:

"You read it in the paper? Sally never believe everything you read in a newspaper. In fact, never accept anything you read as the "Gospel truth, except. the Gospel....well, maybe not always then."

Fr. William Troy to a ballroom full of formally dressed students:

"Unaccustomed as I am to whom a Junior Prom is dedicated, let me just say thank you for this very flattering and unusual honor".

Bishop John J. Swint to Fr. Lawrence McHugh, in an outraged voice while scanning the invoice for biology lab equipment:

"Why eight telescopes; why not just one and let them all take turns looking at the sky if they must!!!"

Bernie Glenn '59 in 1958:

"I had a good time in Cuba". (Little did he know what lay ahead.)

Kevin Kerrane; '62 within an hour of arriving on campus:

"I felt at home". (a not uncommon experience)

Dr. Don Mercer discovered a fast and accurate way to detect heart attacks.

Don Mercer, Ph.D. and Ed Shahady, MD were classmates at Wheeling College, graduating in 1960. Each continued his education, with Don earning a masters and doctorate in Biochemistry from the University of Pittsburgh and Ed earning a medical degree from West Virginia University. Their paths did not cross again until their 50th Wheeling College anniversary in 2010, where Dr. Shahady discovered that Dr. Mercer's medical research in the early 1970's at Pittsburgh's Montefiore Hospital, Department of Pathology made a significant impact on the recognition of heart attacks.

In the late 1960's, physicians were challenged when a patient presented with chest pain and the EKG was negative or questionable. Diagnosing myocardial infarctions (heart attacks) was difficult if the EKG was not positive. Blood tests at that time were not very specific, making it even more difficult for the physician's diagnosis. A more accurate blood test was needed.

At that time, Dr. Mercer was a biochemist in the clinical chemistry lab at Montefiore Hospital, teaching residents and medical technologists, evaluating new clinical tests developed by commercial companies, performing clinical medical research, and consulting with interns, residents and attending physicians. Dr. Mercer lunched with the Chief of Cardiology, Dr. Murray A. Varat, who often expressed his frustration about the lack of an accurate and fast blood test that could easily identify heart attacks especially when EKG's were questionable.

Dr. Mercer responded to the challenge and began successful experiments in his lab to find the perfect cardiac test. Following six months of work, he was the first to introduce a rapid blood enzyme test procedure (**cardiac isoenzyme of creatine kinase, CK-MB**) for early and precise identification of myocardial infarction (heart attack). This was what physicians (Dr. Shahady included) were wishing for – a fast, accurate blood test measuring activity directly related to the occurrence of heart attacks. Prior to Mercer's discovery, the use of other blood enzymes of cardiac origin were quite popular. These tests soon became questionable because of numerous reports of abnormal results owing to non-cardiac conditions, such as indigestion, strenuous exercise, electric shock treatment, surgery, multiple injections and accidental falls. However, promising results were observed with the **cardiac isoenzyme of creatine kinase, CK-MB**. Clinical trials with the help of Dr. Murray Varat showed CK-MB to be nearly 100% accurate

News of Mercer's work spread quickly and the first commercial version was produced by Roche Diagnostics (Nutley, N.J.) about two years later. A U.S. patent for isolation and measurement of CK-MB was granted to Dr. Mercer on Sept. 6, 1977. "Before this test was available other less reliable tests were performed. Both over and under diagnosis created increased costs, false diagnosis and inappropriate care. Don's discovery saved lives and decreased the cost of medical care".

Dr. Mercer's CK-MB paper was one of 40 (including 2 from Nobel Prize winners, L. Pauling and R. Yallow) selected for publication in Dr. Richard Rocco's (Ed) book "Landmark Papers (20th century) in Clinical Chemistry, page 157, published by Elsevier 2006.

Mercer's award winning paper was published in the 1974 journal of Clinical Chemistry. Clinical Chemistry 20, 36-40 (1974) and it is still considered the best bench-marker for evaluating new state-art cardiac tests. Thanks to Dr. Mercer's pioneering studies targeting CK-MB, other scientists have developed fully automated CK-MB tests which are currently being performed world-wide and considered must due testing in patients with heart attack symptoms (chest pain).

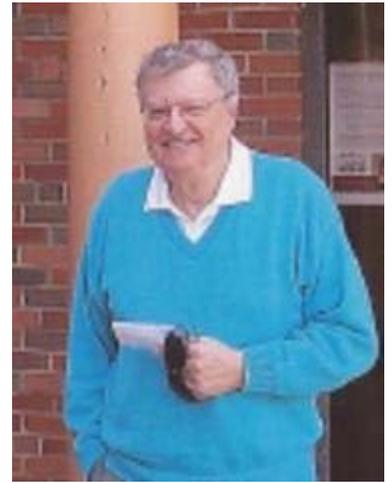
QUOTES FROM LEADERS IN CARDIAC ENZYME FIELD

"First widely accepted method for the rapid and quantitative technique for the measurement of CK-MB." **Robert Rej, Clinical Chemistry Journal 44, 1998.**

"Mercer column method was the gold standard for all quantitative measurement for the decades when the diagnostic application of the test was secured." **Robert Rej, Clinical Chemistry Journal 44, 1998.**

"The 1974 paper presented by Mercer was a novel refinement of a clinical isoenzyme." **Richard Rocco, Landmark Papers in Clinical Chemistry, Book 2006, Page 157.**

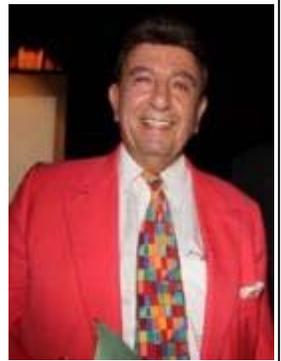
"The development of rapid, automated and accurate laboratory testing for the cardiac CK-MB revolutionized the treatment of patients with acute cardiac events." **Amy Saenger and Allan Jaffe, Circulation 118, 2008.**



Don Mercer '60

John Mensore '60

John is a lifelong resident of New Martinsville, WV and Wetzel county. He is considered as one of the most prominent and distinguished citizens of this city, county and the state of WV. His many awards are a testament to his distinguished career. He was a practicing attorney for 39 years and president and owner of Mensore Distributors in New Martinsville, WV for the past 28 years. At age 79 he still goes to work every day. He attended Magnolia High School where he excelled in basketball, and participated in student council, the band and several plays. He received his law degree from WVU in 1963. He is a member of Wheeling (College) Jesuit University Class of 1960. During his college years he was a member of the basketball team and was the leading scorer on the team his freshman year. He also was on the Tennis team and participated in several plays. He is remembered by his classmates for his role as "Iago" in the play Othello. He continued playing tennis post college and won several WV state championships.



John Mensore '60

John is a generous supporter of his community, and WJU. His name and/or his company name is associated with many community events. He served as the Class Agent for the Class of 1960 for several years. As the agent, he helped plan reunions and aided with fund raising efforts. He helped to fund the new football field at WJU. In his community he has served on many boards, aids in fund raising and is a generous supporter of many non-profit organizations including: Easter Seals, Wetzel County Hospital Foundation, New Martinsville High School, past president of the Jaycees, member of the Lions Club, President of Wetzel County Bar Association, Moose organization, Rotary Club and the ELKS. He supports the Lincoln Theater, the Wetzel County Museum and he founded the Adena Industries Recycling Center.

John is a very gifted singer and entertainer. He donates his time to perform at schools, talent shows, churches, Rotary conferences, WTRF television and several Wheeling Jesuit functions. For the past 12 years he has conducted an annual one-man concert to support ArtsLink a non profit organization for fine arts. He invites his friends and family to attend and provides a meal for them before the concert. Many of his classmates, fellow alums and faculty from WJU attend the concert. In 2007 former Governor of WV Joe Manchin presented an award to John as the Ambassador of Music for WV in recognition of his lengthy singing career. John donated a room in ArtsLink Fine Arts Center in memory of his mother, Katherine Mensore.

As President of Mensore Distributor he is recognized for building the first temperature controlled facility in WV. He donates the use of his warehouse to organizations such as the Boy Scouts for fund raising events.

Several WV Governors, US Senators and members of the New Martinsville leadership recognize his high values and the success of John and his company. John was touted as a model citizen, a man of faith and a friend of scouting when he received the Scouting Distinguished Citizen award of the Boy Scouts of America. In his acceptance speech John said to the scouts "Remember giving is better than receiving--aspire to make things better for everyone on earth—turn your minuses into pluses and your scars into stars." At that ceremony Dan Joyce, SJ said "John pioneered the way for many young people from the area to attend Wheeling Jesuit—in a sense he is one of the founders of the school"

John truly lives his life in service to others, and has been recognized with the following awards.

2017-Inducted into the Wetzel County, West Virginia, Hall of Fame for lifetime achievements.

2006-Certificate of Recognition from Joe Manchin III, Governor of West Virginia, for outstanding leadership and economic contributions to West Virginia.

2003-Certificate of Recognition as a Distinguished Mountaineer from WV Secretary of State

2003-Distinguished Citizen - Ohio River Valley Council for the Boy Scouts of America.

2003-Business Person of the Year - Greater New Martinsville Development Corporation - community award

2002 Recognized for his service to Boy Scouts, Mountaineer District Council, Boy Scouts of America

1998-Citizen of the Year - Greater New Martinsville Development Corporation - community award

1994-Wetzel County Hospital Wall of Fame for years of service and contributions

1990-Magnolia High School Life Achievement award for athletic achievement and citizenship

Senior Ambassador Fund Raising (update)

As of June 2017 the senior ambassadors donated over 1.4 Million dollars in a four-year period. There are currently 16 classes in the senior ambassador group (1959 thru 1974). The current fund raising period July 2017 thru June 2018 the ambassadors again have been very generous and have donated \$252,864. 276 alumni have given so far this giving year and the average gift is \$2744. At the top of the class giving is the class of 60 at \$77,434. And the highest % giving goes to the class of 61 at 27%.

Also note the total number of alums that donated in 2017 and 2016. **83 more alums gave in 2016 compared to 2017. We (senior ambassadors) need to be more energetic with our fund raising efforts during this giving year. We also raised over \$120,000 more during the 2016 giving period.** Two more classes have been added to our numbers over the past two years so we have more solicitable alums.

Letters and phone calls to your classmates make a big difference. Knowing that you care enough to call or write increases the chance of your classmate giving and the amount they give. It's our University and sharing our time and treasure is critical to WJU's continued excellence. *Let your light shine.*

Donations can be made online at <http://www.wju.edu/advancement/giving.asp> Consider a recurring gift on your credit card. A small amount monthly becomes a large amount at the end of the year.

Checks can be written and mailed to Wheeling Jesuit University, Office of Institutional Advancement, 316 Washington Ave, Wheeling, WV 28003.

Also consider a planned gift. Go online at www.wju.edu/advancement/makeplanned.asp to see the many ways you can consider for a planned gift. Planned gifts are usually larger, made during a donors lifetime or estate contributions through wills, trusts, etc.

For more information about planned giving contact Fr. Bill George, S.J. at (304-243-8144) or wgeorge@wju.edu.

Updated Senior Ambassador Report

Class	Amount	FY 18 donors	FY 17 donors	FY16 donors	Solicitable Alumni	FY18%	FY17%	FY16 %	Avg. Gift
1959	\$25,580.00	5	9	11	27	18%	33%	41%	\$5,116
1960	\$77,434.21	10	18	21	38	26%	47%	55%	\$7,743
1961	\$3,160.00	16	24	33	59	27%	41%	56%	\$198
1962	\$8,611.46	10	23	22	49	20%	47%	45%	\$861
1963	\$14,020.00	18	25	28	72	25%	35%	39%	\$779
1964	\$24,950.00	15	18	37	84	18%	21%	44%	\$1,663
1965	\$3,650.00	17	23	36	90	19%	26%	40%	\$215
1966	\$4,110.00	19	23	45	89	21%	26%	51%	\$216
1967	\$17,225.00	13	45	27	88	15%	51%	31%	\$1,325
1968	\$40,372.05	30	36	33	128	23%	28%	26%	\$1,346
1969	\$13,567.00	35	49	60	162	22%	30%	37%	\$387
1970	\$8,390.00	35	31	35	161	22%	19%	22%	\$240
1971	\$2,285.00	15	17	30	132	11%	13%	23%	\$152
1972	\$4,025.00	17	28	31	126	13%	22%	25%	\$237
1973	\$3,260.00	15	24	27	112	13%	21%	24%	\$217
1974	\$2,225.00	6				1.00%			\$371
	\$252,864.72	276	393	476	1417	10%	28%	37%	\$2,744

50 Year Club

The following individuals are Club Officers and board members serving June 2016-June 2018. President-John Glaser '66, 1st V.P.-Al Reed '60, 2nd V.P.-Don Mercer '60, Secretary-Lillian Gangwere Cale '66, Past President-Dan Haller '61. Members at Large - Barbara Creamer Yeager '59, John Eagan McAteer '61, Fr. John DiBacco '62, Geno Julian '64, JJ Lauer '64, Larry Meagher '65, and Lillian Gangwere Cale '66

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, and the immediate past president, the alumni director and a representative of the Alumni Council, will serve 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/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 first Senior Ambassadors group met June 24, 2011 to discuss their future activities. There are 54 individuals who have volunteered from the classes of 1959 through 1973. The group meets yearly at the time of the reunion and then by conference call during the year. Senior Ambassadors have been very dedicated fundraisers for WJU, raising more than \$1.4 million dollars to date. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, they've already raised \$252,864.72.

Alumni Scholar in Residence: This program, initiated by the 50 Year Club in 2011, represents a partnership with the university faculty and administration. A committee representing all three groups selects the scholar and coordinates the campus visit. **The scholar will be a visiting professor at the University for up to one week and all expenses will be donated by the scholar.** Ed Shahady, M.D. '60 was our first initial scholar, in 2011. Alumni Scholars that followed were: Joan Doverspike Davison, Ph.D. '78—in 2012. Dick Riley, Ph.D. '84—in 2013. The Honorable James Smith '64- in 2014. Christina Richey, Ph.D. '04- in 2015 and John Stopper '75—in 2016. The Alumni Scholar Program has been very successful and demonstrates the quality of WJU graduates to the students and faculty of WJU. Anyone with extensive teaching experience is invited to submit their resume to eshahady@att.net.



Betsy McKenna Quinn '67 receiving 50 Year Club Diploma from President Townsley