



# 50 Year Club Newsletter

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### A Time for Fun, Reflection and to Remember 50-Year Reunion, Class of 1968 by Phil Rusciolelli '68

In our lifetime, there are many events we celebrate and memorialize: births, birthdays, marriages, anniversaries, and graduations are a few. So, a graduation that was also a 50th anniversary seemed to be a very appropriate time to celebrate. And, celebrate we did. Wheeling Jesuit Class of 1968 gathered at the Wheeling Jesuit Campus June 22-24, 2018 with classmates, spouses, teachers and staff to remember our college years, renew friendships, and have a most enjoyable weekend.

For Barbara and me, gatherings such as these over the years, had been hit and miss. Military life did not put us in one place for very long, so maintaining contacts was difficult. The reunion offered the possibility of seeing old friends and in weeks prior to the reunion, communicating with classmates who would and would not be able to attend the alumni weekend. From a list of 126, our reunion committee was able to call or contact almost 100 classmates. 47 indicated they would attend. In the end, 40 attended with many sending regrets and well wishes. A nice touch to greeting one another were name tags with our graduation photos that Barbara and, daughter Pamela, a 1991 WJU graduate, put together. The photos helped us identify one another and recall our youth.

Our weekend began with the 50 Year Club Induction moderated by Fran Bartemes, because Lucille Antonucci's plane was late, and me. For the past 10 years, the 50 Year Club has supported many WJU projects thru their leadership, the newsletter and support for annual fund drives. At each reunion, the 50 Year Club inducts the class passing the 50th anniversary threshold. Following our induction ceremony and dinner, and a hearty round of "the Wheeling College Polka" lead by Lucille, most classmates retired to our hospitality suite at the hotel. There, we laughed and renewed friendships,

a time for fun. Saturday morning, Brian McCagh lead us in discussion regarding the strong attitude in our class for service to others due to our Jesuit experience, a time for reflection. In the afternoon, we dedicated a memorial to our fallen classmates, a time to remember. Following dinner, we continued with more class stories and refreshments, which only seemed to make the stories more believable, more fun. Sunday morning, at breakfast we heard again from our University President about plans for our university, and by mid-day we were on our way back to our homes and families.



*Fran Bartemes Carlton and Phil Rusciolelli*

From those who could not attend we received the following notes:

- Bob Kohlbecker is retired and divides time with family between Lake Placid and Ft Myers enjoying hiking canoeing and volunteering with his local church and hospital ministry.
- George (Chip) Novacky remembered three teachers: Mike Morucci, Fr. Joseph Kennedy and Fr. Albert Jenemann and how instrumental they were to his career.
- Art Moren provided salutations, thanked the committee for encouraging classmates to return for the reunion and contributed to our class memorial scholarship fund.
- Haywood Martin recalled his time at WJC fondly and would like to know how others in our class are doing. His interests have been with the Sierra Club and playing folk music.
- John Bertelli regretted that he had a family event and a date with his sailboat on an Ohio Lake.

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Virginia institution ranked by U.S. News this year. In fact, WJU's graduation rate was at least 10 percent higher than the other colleges and universities in the Mountain State, the rankings reported.

The University is launching the Annual Fund campaign, "1,151 Reasons to Give." Our students are the direct beneficiaries of your kindness. Generous gifts from Wheeling Jesuit's alumni, parents and friends help us continue our commitment to our traditions and ideals. Our students will forever seek to be Competent, Compassionate and Committed to integrating their knowledge and service in support of others.

After winning both the conference and regional tournaments, the women's volleyball team traveled to Pittsburgh for the NCAA Division II Quarterfinals on Thursday, November 29. This was their fifth appearance in the last six years. The team lost to Lewis University, 3-0. The Cardinals finished with a 37-4 record.

The University has started a video series, Cardinal Spotlight, which highlights different students and programs that are doing great work. The videos will also allow students to discuss why they chose to come to WJU. These can be found on the official WJU YouTube page.

The football team finished their exhibition season with an undefeated record on Saturday, November 3. The Cardinals will enter the Mountain East Conference (MEC) for the 2019-20 campaign to compete as a varsity NCAA Division II program. Coach Zac Bruney understands that his team has a long way to go in order to be ready for next season, but he is pleased with the growth and maturity of his team.

WJU was recently recognized by the West Virginia Department of Education's Office of Diversion and Transition Programs for the partnership between the University's Education Department and the Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Correctional Center (RMJC) in Wheeling. Members of the Office of Diversion and Transition Programs presented President Mihalyo and Dr. Jane Neuenschwander with agency collaboration recognition plaques. Dr. Neuenschwander and her students have contributed more than 1,000 hours of service over the course of five semesters since fall 2016. Students from WJU provide a "Book Club" program as well as tutoring services and hands-on activities to the students at the juvenile center. At least six students from the University have committed an hour and a half of service every Wednesday during the fall and spring semesters.



## Message From President Mihalyo

Michael P. Mihalyo, Jr., D.M.A., became the 12th president of Wheeling Jesuit University in August 2018. He joins Wheeling Jesuit with a diverse background in higher education that spans more than 20 years. Most recently, Dr. Mihalyo served as provost and vice president of academic affairs at Rockford University in Rockford, Illinois.

Dr. Mihalyo's appointment returns him to the Ohio Valley. Prior to Rockford, Dr. Mihalyo was the president of the Kentucky-based Appalachian College Association as well as the president, chancellor, and provost at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV. He also served as the vice president for academic affairs and as a faculty member at Bethany College in Bethany, WV.

Dr. Mihalyo also has familial ties to the University. His sister, Kimberly Mihalyo Abdalah, is a member of the class of 1995 and a member of the WJU Athletic Hall of Fame. Kimberly's husband, Dr. Marvin Abdalah, M.D., is a member of the class of 1994 and a member of the WJU Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Mihalyo's niece, Molly Metcalf, is also a member of the class of 2017.

Dr. Mihalyo earned his bachelor's and master's degrees, both in piano performance, from Duquesne University, and he holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from West Virginia University.

### WJU Updates

For the 23rd consecutive year, Wheeling Jesuit University was recognized as one of the top Best Regional Universities in the South Region by U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges 2019 edition. Ranked the 38th Best Regional University in the South Region, Wheeling Jesuit boasted the best graduation rate and composite score of any West

## 50th Year Reunion, Class of 1968 - Phil Rusciolelli *(cont. from pg. 1)*

- Jane Strausbaugh asked to pass her best wishes on to classmates.
- Chuck Amuso and Chuck Podowski both live in Florida and could not get away, but each sent regards to the class and wishes for a great reunion.
- Paul Barchie had his son visiting during our reunion weekend, regretted not being able to be with us, but wished to see photos.
- Sharron McKibbin Thomas regretted due to last minute health issues, remembered us with a poem, and we understand was kept updated with texts and photos over the weekend.
- Bill Carr and Bob Cross both indicated their desire to be at the reunion however, were unable to be with us.
- Larry and Helen (Dietz) Manchio also sent warm regards with their regret.
- John (Puggy) Gage, Mike Shaeffer and Marty Spolarich had family events that conflicted with our weekend.
- Tom Murphy attended and further reminded us that Peter Callaghan, a Vietnam POW, retired from the United States

## Class of 1968 - 50th Reunion Photo 6/23/18

Back row (L-R) Tom Stenger, Bob Womack, Jim Shaus, Mic Bowman, Joe Kelleher, Bill Murphy, Tom Murphy, Mike Loftus, Frank Kelleher, Joe Dressel, Rick Latos, Phil Rusciolelli, Tom Friday, Terry McNamara, Brian McCagh, Tom Luxner, Phil Rosenbauer, Tom Callahan

Middle row (L-R) Pat (Wallace) Millar, Lorraine (Pietkiewicz) Shadle, Karen (Bell) Widina, Sharon Cassidy, Nancy (Curtin)

Air Force, now resides in Guam.

- Lastly, Mike Chokel, in Vail, Arizona, and my favorite note, said he was living the dream, raising a 14-year-old granddaughter at 72. God Bless Mike, and all those who could not be with us.



Some sad notes of regret were from Nancy Ellen (Rice) O'Leary who told us of the recent passing of husband Jack, Class of 1969, and from Mary Ellen (Voss) Delaney, news of the loss of husband, John, Class of 1967. During the reunion, Paula (Digirolamo) Miller notified us of Steve's passing and how he so valiantly battled his cancer. We remembered all classmates not able to be with us and at our Memorial Mass, celebrated by Fr. Jimmy O'Brien, read aloud the names of deceased classmates.

It was a wonderful weekend, being able to see familiar faces, recall crazy times and to relish thoughts of our youth. Many thanks to our Reunion Committee: Barb, Bill, Brian, Claire, Fran, Joe, Lucille, Rick, Tom, Walt. Also, we thank the University Staff, and the 50-Year Club Officers for making our reunion so memorable.

Gardner, Teresa (Suraci) Shea, Bob Moore, Barbara (Davies) Rusciolelli, Claire (Barbour) Loftus, Fran (Bartemes) Carlton, Jeannie (Dearhart) Collman, Mary Pat (Smith) Witchko, Marylyn (Tuite) Gray

Front row (L-R) Frank Synoweic, Ken Joy, Lucille (Antonucci) Fontana, Walt Chalmers, John Lynch, Bob Moreland, Jim Desarno (not in photo are Chuck Gruber, Joe Haggerty, and Paul Kalina, who arrived later)



## Service to Others “Let Your Light Shine”

by Brian McCagh ‘68

(Presented as Part of the Annual 50 Year Club Lecture Discussion)

The mid to late 60’s were a turbulent time in our Nation’s history. The war was dragging out in Vietnam and war protests were growing stronger each day. Drug abuse was on the rise. Poverty was rampant in major cities and rural areas. Racial injustices were commonplace.

I have spoken with several classmates about our four years at Wheeling College and the following later years. Today’s discussion is centered on the Jesuit philosophy of life, “service for others” that was nurtured at Wheeling College, what it meant to us then, and how it has impacted our lives and those we have served. The Jesuits encouraged us to provide for others and to become leaders to make the world a better place.

223 of us left our parents nest in August of ’64. Nearly 145 came from 7 nearby states [PA (45), MD (35), WV (23), VA (16), OH (15), NY (7), DC (3)], the remainder hailed from 7 other states [NJ, DE, N Wi, IL, and NJ]. Classmates came from predominately Catholic feeder high schools; Gonzaga, Georgetown Prep ,St Johns and Immaculata in DC, Notre Dame in Baltimore, Charleston Area Catholic, Central Catholic and South Hills Catholic in Pittsburgh, St. Francis Academy in Greensburg, and Wheeling Catholic to name just a few.

*“Look to your left & look to your right.”* Approximately 50 classmates left for one reason or another prior to graduation in 1968; 197 graduated. Strong life-long friendships developed and were maintained. Just two summers ago almost 30 classmates, on short notice, gathered at Rocky Gap State Park near Cumberland, MD to collectively celebrate our 70th birthdays over a summer weekend.

Some special gifts were brought to the college during our times here. A classmate paid a visit to a younger brother studying at Notre Dame and brought back the idea of establishing a rugby team. The Indian statue overlooking Route 40 miraculously turned green on St. Patrick’s Day eve. Fr. Jenneman had a mysterious visit one evening in the dorm when the local undertaker showed up to pick up his remains. The college’s first annual VD or Valentine’s Day Queen was crowned at a basketball half time, having won by a margin twice the size as the student body. 33 classmates have already had their *“Homecomings.”* A memorial tree will be dedicated in their memory outside the Chaple of Mary and Joseph at 4:30 this afternoon.



Winston Churchill,once said, “All the great things are simple and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, and hope.” One of our classmates has summed it up best with one word...**SERVICE. Service for others** was or is been second nature for many of us; it took many forms back in those days; for example, school committees, SCU, tutoring, mentoring orphans, flood clean-ups, diocese census taking, CCD summer classes, etc. Our class knew how to work hard and play hard. Some favorite “watering holes“ were: Moxies, Macs, Ma Parkers, The Alpha, Cork & Bottle, and Dirty Dicks across the Ohio River.

After graduating, many classmates went off to grad school, military service, Peace Corps, FBI, Secret Service, education/ social work/healthcare and legal fields. A total of 22 class members were called up or volunteered for military service, setting aside their own personal choices for the sake of our Nation. One classmate, Peter Callahan made the ultimate sacrifice. Also, two classmates got married and then served with the Peace Corps in Boliva.

**Volunteerism** has lived on since 1968. Class members have served on parish councils, school PTAs, non-profit organization boards and community organizations. Many have led or supported fund raising campaigns in their communities. Numerous classmates have provided pro bono medical and legal work. Many have held leadership positions in national, state and local professional associations, civic clubs and organizations. Others have been engaged in political campaigns in an effort to *“make a difference.”*

Giving takes many forms. A total of \$492,000 has been contributed by some classmates since our graduation 50 years ago. The first gift to the Class of ’68 Reunion Fund was made in 2013. As of today, the fund now totals \$40,682. A class gift of \$50,000 is being used to create a Class of ’68 endowed scholarship. This initial gift will endure and provide a direct impact on the students not just today, but in perpetuity. Additional contributions to this endowed scholarship can be added at any time. Also, since 2013, classmates have given just over \$119,000 in support of various Wheeling Jesuit’s funds.

If you are looking for a senior opportunity to give, consider the **Ignatian Volunteer Corps**. Their mission is to provide men & women over 50 the opportunity to serve the needs of people who are poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow deeper in one’s faith in the Jesuit tradition. It’s a great way to volunteer and utilize your talents in areas of need. Check out their website which lists opportunities by major cities/regions.



## Persons for Others

### Sam Carcione '61 Civil Rights Pioneer

The following account of some of my personal experiences is meant to present the evolution of my own thoughts as I learned from those with whom I was fortunate to have associated in the early days of the Civil Rights Movement. But first, I must begin with a disclaimer. The Civil Rights Movement was not about me or other support troops, though it freed many of us to openly associate with friends in the movement. "Nobody is better than you; and you aren't better than anybody." My mother's oft repeated mantra, though perhaps a bit trite, profoundly affected me in my early years. A single parent in a time when that was somewhat rare, she worked for minimum wages in a factory, but ensured that we ate balanced meals, had a roof over our heads, and wore decent, if not fashionable clothes. She was the only one of her siblings to graduate high school and was determined that her kids would be even further educated.

Brown v. Board of Education was decided in 1954. At the time I was attending Wheeling Central Catholic High School, which was one block west of Blessed Martin de Porres Catholic High School for "colored" Catholic students. Part of my early life was spent in Tiltonville, OH, and because of its proximity to Ohio, segregation in Wheeling was not as recognizable as it might otherwise have been. Buses and restaurants, at least in my observation, were accessible to everyone. When the reality that Blessed Martin and Lincoln high schools were not there by choice, my naivete was suddenly, stunningly jolted. It was clear to me that legal, official injustice had been part of my life and I knew that I would have no choice but to stand on the correct side in the struggle for equal human and civil rights. Thus began my odyssey.

It wasn't easy. I met resistance even during my years at Wheeling College. In my sophomore year one Black student enrolled, and I remarked to one of the Jesuits that I was glad to see that we were integrated. His reply: "Well we don't have to advertise that" shook me, but I didn't argue the point, to my discredit. (Editor's Note: Ironically, at this time another Jesuit, Fr James Muldowney was teaching a course on race relations in America highlighting the deplorable treatment of African-Americans throughout our history.)

After grad school at WVU, I began my teaching career at Mount Mercy College, now Carlow University in Pittsburgh.. Shortly thereafter, a national student association held the "Thanksgiving Fast For Freedom" for which students forwent dinner on a particular day and donated the funds to buy food for needy people in Mississippi. The students at Mt. Mercy

participated en-masse. I later took a group of them to a local Friday night United Negro Protest Committee (UNPC) meeting. It was revelatory for all of us. Afterward many became participants in local efforts to end discrimination in hiring, housing, apprenticeship programs, and education programs.

Among other activities, a group of about 30 students, a couple of nuns and I joined with other area college students to go to a march in Montgomery, AL sponsored by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) after the attempted march from Selma, AL was brutally disbanded by police at the Edmund Pettis Bridge. As we marched toward the state capitol, we were set upon by a mounted posse. Though our contingent escaped with minor injuries, our resolve was reinforced, and our participation in the UNPC intensified. Students volunteered for even more activity. But the highlight of that event was that it was the first time I saw and heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr in person.

Soon I found myself being asked to serve on a number of Boards of Directors of local civil rights groups including the Catholic Interracial Council, the Medical Committee for Human Rights, and the Friends of COFO (Council of Federated Organizations which ran the 1964 MS Summer Project). One of the activities was to replace the station wagon that was burned when Andrew Goodman, James Cheney, and Michael Schwerner were brutally murdered. I spent only a week at the Meridian, MS offices of COFO but experienced far more than I'd imagined. My admiration for the determination and courage of the volunteers who worked on that project is, to this day, unmatched.

In June, 1966, James Meredith began what he called his March Against Fear from Memphis, TN to Jackson, MS. He was shot on the second day of the march and national civil rights organizations took up his march. Without a second thought, I joined that march. I soon received an orientation and was bused to join others in Grenada, MS. The next two weeks winding our way through the back roads of MS were probably the most profound of my life. Being able to share the same space for two weeks with Dr. King, Floyd McKissick (CORE chairman at the time), Stokely Carmichael (later Kwame Ture), John Lewis, Andrew Young, Fannie Lou Hamer, and many others would fulfill lifetime dreams. But it also gave me an opportunity to interact and learn first hand from them. Stokely Carmichael, whom I befriended, then was one of the brightest people I have ever met. His empathy for people was unmatched in my experience.

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## Persons for Others Sam Carcione '61 Civil Rights Pioneer (cont. from pg. 5)

During this time, I had a chance to observe Dr. King's remarkable effect on people who encountered him. One day during the Meredith March, we were getting ready to march to the local courthouse to hold a voting registration demonstration. Stokely Carmichael asked me to go to the house where Dr. King was meeting with staff to let him know that the march was about to begin. I did as requested, but Dr. King replied that he would join us at the courthouse. I relayed the message, but Stokely wasn't having it. He went into the house (I followed close behind), opened the door to the room Dr. King was in and said: "Martin, get out there and lead this march. Most of the people around here can't be seen at the courthouse or they'll lose their jobs and homes. All they want to do is touch the hem of your garment!" Dr. King led that march and people along the way were in awe.

It was on the Meredith March for Freedom that SNCC called for Black Power. In a speech at one of our stops, Stokely made the call to rather minimal fanfare locally. His reasoning was, to my ears, perfectly sound. It was a call for self determination, to self reliance, and to casting off the symbols of oppression that still endured. Suddenly in African American communities across the country a palpable change occurred. A new era began. Soon, "corrective" actions were taking place. Legislation was passed to provide access to the polls, though that right should never have been denied. Jobs began to become available and some programs enabled people with limited resources to access educational opportunities. But obstacles to achieving full equality remained, and still remain.

The events I have recounted, occurred many years ago; nevertheless they and the many remarkable people I met during those watershed years became a motivating force though my subsequent career as a teacher and activist. I look back on them with gratitude and pride.

## The First Class: Two Pioneer Women In the Beginning - Barbara Creamer Yeager '59

In late August of 1955, I was packed for college. My new steamer trunk was stuffed full, my Samsonite luggage (3-piece set...green) held everything else I owned, and they waited by the front door to be loaded into the car. I was prepared to leave home and move to Wheeling College, so excited to begin a new chapter of life. Counting down the days, Labor Day and departure day couldn't come fast enough. The phone rang, and a dispatcher announced, "We have a telegram for Barbara Creamer." Telegrams were not on my radar every day, so this was a bit of a shock. Not as much of a shock however, as was the contents. The college is not ready for students. "Please report to campus on Sunday, September 25th. Classes will begin on Monday, September 26th Thank

you." What???? Three more weeks to wait!!!



It was a good thing that we waited, as it turns out. Arriving on campus on a sunny Sunday afternoon and moving into the second floor of Mount de Chantal Academy, where all walls and ceilings were painted a bright blue, proved to be a bit of an adventure. Meeting future playwright and novelist Rose Ann Ellem, my new roommate, and her family for the first time was a joy. Learning that eight of us would occupy the second floor, two to a room, Mary Louise Owens (Weezie), Amy Oliver, Judy Stone, Mary Eileen Griffin, Sara McMurray, and Jeanne Moore would share the floor with Rose Ann and me. Families left us behind and it began to rain. Symbolic I guess. Later we (ironically dubbed "The Unholy Eight") shared our first meal together at a special college girl's table in the Mount's cafeteria, where we would come to be served rhubarb in every imaginable recipe at every meal for the next month, due to a bumper crop of rhubarb in the Visitation sisters garden during the summer of '55. After dinner we returned to our rooms to unpack and get ready for our first mixer. There we would meet the other 88 members of the co-founder class and the faculty members who would teach us.

On Monday morning, as we navigated the campus and found our classrooms, we discovered the reasons we had to wait so long to begin our college career. First there was mud. The roads were totally mud after the Sunday night rains. There was no concrete or asphalt poured, so we waded to class in mud. There were no curbs or gutters. We did have a few sidewalks. When we entered Donahue Hall, our classroom building, we had many spaces without windows. There were no chalk boards on the walls. There were desks in a few rooms and a podium for professors in the desk-filled rooms, but Donahue Hall was absolutely "a work in progress."

After classes that day, I reported to my job in the bookstore where I was to work with Fr. Hanzely, our beloved Biology Professor. We immediately set about unpacking textbooks first and shelving them. Next, we filled the shelves with composition books, pen, pencils, etc. and then came the novels. I remember a day in 1957, that I unpacked a box of books, flipped through one and thought "Fr. Hanzely is never going to put this one on our shelves...Jack Kerouac's On the Road." But he did in his liberal, artistic expression, freedom of speech, biological way. Over the years as I taught this book to introduce the BEAT movement to students, educational and life experience Wheeling College gave me.

When I visit our beautiful campus today with its multitude of finished buildings, its advanced technology, its enthusiastic students, I am so thankful that I was blessed to be there in the beginning.

## Rose Ann Ellem Kalister '59

Excerpts from her blog:

<http://roseannkalister.com/index.php/blog/>

I was among the first students to enroll in Wheeling College in Wheeling, WV. The college consisted of an administration building and a classroom building floating on a sea of mud and construction. When I went to register I was told my classes. When I saw calculus and trig, I said “No way!” I had just spent my senior year copying geometry from Danny White. The response was “Then you will have to take Greek.” Before I could even say no to that, I was sitting in front of Father Gannon who said “Recite the Greek alphabet.” Years later when I applied to graduate school, I was asked “Any bad grades?” “D in first semester Greek” I replied. The counselor laughed. Years after that I would explain to my English classes the benefits of knowing Latin and Greek root words.

I escaped the clutches of family, school, and church when I received a scholarship to Wheeling College, the first Jesuit school in West Virginia. One pleasant afternoon I was dozing in Father Kernan's rhetoric and speech class. Occasionally it was his custom to call on a student to give an extempore speech. On that sleepy day he called on me. My speech was on how to survive Jesuit education. I groused about the muddy plateau the two new buildings were on, Father Kernan's dramatic habit of kneeling to pray before each class, his admonitions to write without adjectives and adverbs, and his research assignments to read every book written by that author. The more my audience laughed, the more outrageous my comments. Father ended the class (without prayer) saying “Now that Rose Ann has reprimanded the Society of Jesus....”

After shooting off my mouth in Father Kernan's Composition and Speech class (Contemporary Speech), I began writing a newspaper column. I was trying to be Wheeling College's Joe Blundo. I also wrote short stories about West Virginians or Syrian people. Next came playwriting. I asked my playwriting professor, a devout convert to Catholicism, how to get plays produced. She said “Sleep with producers.” Instead I accepted a graduate fellowship in English. John Carroll in Cleveland was integrating. I was one of the first eight women. My initial assignment was to teach the football players bonehead English five days a week at 8:00 am. I was one page ahead of them until the day I rushed in late, spoke a paragraph, and realized nothing was coming out of my mouth. We shared a laugh and went for coffee!

Can't believe that I would eventually write a 335 page novel, *Sister of Saidnaya*.

## Careers - My Days as A Congressional Staffer Paula Felt '72



After my undergraduate and graduate studies in political science at Wheeling Jesuit and Duquesne Universities, I began my career on Capitol Hill where I worked for ten years as a legislative and press assistant to Representatives John B. Anderson (IL), Larry Coughlin (PA), Shirley Pettis (CA), and Charlie Thone (NE). I also worked on the special election of Maryland's Steny Hoyer to the U.S. House of Representatives.

My fondest memory during the time I was on the Hill is my job as a legislative assistant for Rep. Anderson. He was a legislator who had an in-depth understanding of national matters, was an excellent debater on the House floor, and was not afraid to say exactly where he stood on the issues. I was fortunate to handle his environmental work and to have the opportunity to assist him in the passage of the Udall-Anderson Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, a bipartisan bill that expanded Denali National Park and preserved many other areas of Alaska, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, for future generations.

Rep. Morris Udall (AZ) asked Anderson to help him get a substitute bill to the House floor for a vote that provided a better balance between conservation and development than those bills coming out of the House Interior and Insular Affairs and Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committees. Despite the fact Anderson was also campaigning for President, he felt that safeguarding America's spectacular natural heritage in Alaska was something he wanted and needed to do. Udall knew he could not get legislation passed unless it had the support of both parties. Anderson, being the third-ranking Republican in the House, could immediately line up at least a dozen Republican colleagues to support him while Udall would line up an equal number of Democrats on his side of the aisle. Udall also knew Anderson could maneuver the bill through the Rules Committee because of his position on that panel. An “Alaska Coalition” of grassroots organizations joined Udall and Anderson and the Carter Administration to garner support from undecided Members and to address their concerns about providing enough land for hunting, mining, timbering, and oil and gas production. Alan Berlow wrote in *Congressional Quarterly* on May 19, 1979 that “The surprising 268-157 House vote backing a strong Alaska lands conservation bill was produced by one of the most highly organized environmental lobbying efforts ever waged on Capitol Hill.”

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## **My Days as A Congressional Staffer by Paula Felt '72 (cont. from pg. 7)**

For me, the passage of this bill was a lesson in bipartisanship and coalition building where Members looked beyond party at what was good for the country, and public interest groups came together to lend their support. In those days, members of Congress then spent more time in Washington, socialized with their colleagues and built solid relationships enabling them to better work together and get things done.

This coalition building experience enabled me in my next job with Rep. Coughlin to work with House and Senate Committee staffers, scientists, environmentalists, economists, and public citizen groups in a successful effort to obtain bipartisan support for legislation to terminate two key energy projects that were outdated and over budget – the Clinch River Breeder Reactor and the Synthetic Fuels Corporation. I was also able to encourage Rep. Coughlin to collaborate with his Pennsylvania Democratic colleague, Rep. Bob Edgar, to get funding for the Philadelphia VA Hospital after OMB had twice rejected this funding.

What a contrast to today's environment of gridlock and hyper partisanship. The current Congress has broken the record for the number of closed rules issued, while bipartisan bills have rarely moved out of Committee. Fortunately, however, there are efforts today by 18 Democrats and 18 Republicans of the House Problem Solvers Caucus, to break the current gridlock. Their proposed package of House Rules changes is aimed at making the new Congress in January work more effectively and efficiently while restoring civility, fairness and transparency.

The Caucus' package includes a fast-track process for legislation co-sponsored by at least two-thirds of the House; a three-fifths threshold to pass bills under a closed rule; a minimum of a three-business-day notice of a Committee markup; party ratios on House Committees that reflect the party ratio of the entire House, and a Speaker elected by an absolute majority of all Members of the House. The Caucus has garnered broad support from a group called No Labels Ambassadors. Their package of proposals can be viewed on the nolabels.org website.

## **Endowed Alumni Scholarships by Dan Haller '61**

Establishing a scholarship to honor a friend or loved one is a thoughtful and effective way to help a deserving WJU student obtain the same high quality education we received. It is also a meaningful way of "giving back" to our alma mater. Joe Edmiston, Vice President for Advancement, has set forth below what is required to establish a scholarship. If you wish to include a scholarship or bequest to WJU as part of your estate plan, John Lewis and Matt Rak, both alumni and

attorneys specializing in estate planning at the Pittsburgh Law Firm of Metz, Lewis, Brodman, Must & O'Keefe, will be happy to assist you free of charge. Matt's direct dial number is (412) 918-1126.



Several alumni driven scholarships are already established offering aid to our WJU students. We would like to share stories behind two of them.

### **The Nolan Lacey Kirk Scholarship**

My wife Linda and I wanted to honor three people—Our scholarship honors - my mother Leone Nolan Haller, Linda's father, Jack Lacey and Frank Kirk, a friend of my mother and our family. All three were depression era survivors who overcame many hardships to lead productive and fulfilling lives - lives that impacted our own lives in important ways.

The initial idea for this scholarship came after the death of Frank Kirk in 1984. Sent to work at age 14 to support his widowed mother, Frank ultimately became a successful broker and financial advisor. My mother, Leone Nolan, met Frank in early 1935 when she went to work at the same firm. She had been engaged to my dad, Leo Haller for five years, their wedding delayed due to the depression and the need to help out their own parents.

They finally married later in 1935. Tragically, Dad died of lung cancer just eleven years later in June of 1946. I was just finishing first grade. Left with a six year old son to raise, Mother soon went to work. Although family and friends helped along the way, she, essentially did it all with a can-do, no-self-pity attitude that quickly care to the fore. Ten years after Dad's death, she invited her old work associate, Frank Kirk, to a party. They later became an item of sorts. Frank would take mother to shows and musicals, and soon he became a regular for Sunday dinner at our house. In their very Irish way, they never married and continued to live as before with only oblique indications of their deep affection for one another. When Frank died in 1984, mother decided that a scholarship in his name at Wheeling Jesuit would be a proper way to honor the man who never had the opportunity to go to college. We continued to add to the scholarship each year. And when mother died in 2003, her will provided for another significant addition to it.

More recently, we changed the name to The Nolan Lacey Kirk Scholarship. Money left by Linda's Father, Jack Lacey will be added to the fund. Jack was another depression era story. Orphaned at age 11 he was raised by a Quaker family on a farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. In 1937, he became a Naval aviator. In the Summer of 1941, he was assigned to a patrol plane squadron based in Newfoundland.

*(Continued Page 9)*

## Endowed Scholarships (cont. from pg. 8)

Their orders were to escort Canadian/British vessels sailing from Halifax with desperately needed supplies for Britain. Significantly, their orders were to sink any German submarine encountered. This was still months before Pearl Harbor and America's entry into the war.

Jack also served as a Naval officer during the Korean War. By this time he was married with a family which ultimately included seven children with Linda being the oldest. Of a mild and quiet disposition, he had a brilliant analytical mind and was a shrewd manager of money. With just a Naval officer's salary, he nevertheless was able to send all seven of his children to college. The orphan boy had not only survived, he had thrived to become a devoted and much beloved father of seven children. I am happy to report that since its inception in 1985, the family scholarship has been providing financial aid to Wheeling Jesuit students. Currently it is lending financial support to three of them.

### Cogan Family Scholarship by Tim Cogan '69

I decided that the Cogan Scholarship would be an appropriate way to honor my parents. Here is how it all started. And I'll tell you a little bit about some of the students who have received it. It was Dr. John Wack who first gave me the idea, in 1987, saying that Jesuit (then Wheeling College) needed scholarship help. He responded by contributing to it over the years. So have my spouse, Janet Boyle, her parents, my brother, Tom Corrigan, John Delaney, Terry Gurley, Mike Duff and Susan Black, Jeff Woods, Marilou Carrico and others.

I added in the requirements that recipients should be within a 50-mile radius Cleveland's Soldiers & Sailors Monument, which was designed by a Cogan ancestor. Jesuit called and advised that, with this monument within a half mile of Lake Erie, most of that radius was Lake Erie, where few potential students lived.

Recipients were initially selected by then-A.D. Jay Defruscio and were athletes, giving me further excuse to attend Jesuit sporting events. One, a female former basketball player was at last report working for Deutsche Bank in Europe. Some of the early recipients were basketball players, others volleyball players. I hoped for some from my high school. Two who came from St. Ignatius Cleveland to Wheeling Jesuit were the president of the honor society at Jesuit and the captain of the rugby team. The latter later returned to Wheeling as director of the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center, where I volunteer, and where I eventually served on a committee that hired him as director. One recipient (Rick Nash) was an older

student from Cleveland and we were privileged to get to know his family.



Some of the kids we have lunched with, some in combination with Lee Jones Scholarship recipients, where I showed pictures of my parents and the sainted Lee Jones, trying to get the kids to see that it was real money they were getting and from real people. Recently I have said that what we wanted was that the scholarship be used to "close the deal" to get a kid to come to Jesuit.

Some of the recipients didn't like Jesuit and transferred but most have thrived here. One was a swimming recipient. I later told her, when she was entering the Athletic Hall of Fame, that we hadn't given her much money. She responded that "it all helps." Currently we have 4 recipients, three of them wrestlers. One I have met and become friends with. I saw him recently as I was walking my dog through Jesuit. I have also seen him at Catholic Charities, where he volunteers. He also helps run retreats. I told him that I was proud of what he has done at Jesuit. He has told me that a lot of his development has been due to Jesuit. "And it's all because of you," he said in the warm, gathering evening. I knew that he meant all of us who have contributed to our effort. Please give some thought to setting up your own family scholarship. It's very rewarding to meet these young people and know that you are helping them obtain the same great education you received at Jesuit.

### Joseph R. Edmiston Vice President of Advancement

Creating an endowed scholarship ensures this academic opportunity for future generations of students in perpetuity while also ensuring a donor's legacy. Through the creation of an endowed scholarship, donors are asked to create a Legacy Statement. This statement is provided with the notice of a scholarship award so that the recipient can learn about those whose generosity helps support their academic efforts. Endowed Scholarships can be created with an initial gift of \$50,000 which can be donated immediately or paid over a 5 year period. When the gift total reaches the \$50,000 mark, the interest on the scholarship will grow for a year before being awarded to ensure that the gift is never utilized to provide the scholarship support. This ensures that the donor's legacy will live on for generations.

If you have any questions or would like additional information on the process to create an endowed scholarship please feel free to call my office at 304-243-8172 or email me at jedmiston@wju.edu.



*Barbara Davies Rusciollelli '68 receiving 50 Year Club Diploma from Dr. Debra Townsley*

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.

## 50 Year Club

The following individuals are Club Officers and board members serving June 2016-June 2018. President-John Glaser '66, 1st Vice President-Al Reed '60, 2nd Vice President-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, Lillian Gangwere Cale '66, and Phil Rusciollelli '68.

### **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

**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 \$1.7 million dollars to date. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, they've already raised over \$343,000.00.

**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 to 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, spending time on campus fall of 2011. Joan Doverspike Davison, Ph.D. '78 was on campus fall of 2012. Dick Riley, Ph.D. '84 was on campus fall of 2013. The Honorable James Smith 64' was on campus fall of 2014. Christina Richey, Ph.D. '04 was on campus fall of 2015 and John Stopper '75 was the scholar for 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 teaching experience is invited to submit their resume to [eshahady@att.net](mailto:eshahady@att.net).