Dear Alumni and Friends,

My first months as president have been filled with long but exciting days. I have spent time getting to know students, employees, alumni and friends of the University – many have shared stories about their experiences at Wheeling Jesuit that have provided me with valuable insights into our shared history. These stories have served to reinforce what I had already believed – Wheeling Jesuit University is truly a special place.

As I listen to alumni and friends, many have asked “What can I do to help?” The answer is simple – become engaged. Being engaged is more than making a gift. I’ve been asking alumni to get involved by visiting campus, to meet with the University’s senior leadership team, to introduce us to high school counselors or students, to organize regional alumni activities, or to mentor one of our current students. We need your help.

You already know that Wheeling Jesuit has several outstanding academic programs. Let me share with you three more impressive examples of the quality of the intellectual experience at WJU:

- Our students have a placement rate greater than 95% in law schools, medical schools and physical therapy programs.
- WJU undergraduate students are twice as likely as their peers at other similar universities across the country to engage in research with faculty.
- WJU’s Challenger Learning Center remains a leader in the development of education programs – while offering on-site and distance learning missions to a record number of students around the world.

The University has launched a strategic planning process and we are engaging all members of our WJU community in this process – including employees, the Jesuits, alumni, students, parents and the members of the local Wheeling community. It is important that all stakeholders have a role in charting our course for the future.

I want to thank you for the many ways you have shown your support for WJU in the past. Your financial support is very much appreciated. Our objective is to reach 100 percent alumni giving participation from each class and become the number one Jesuit university in the country in alumni participation. Please help.

As we set forth on our journey, I ask for your continued support and prayers. I also want to hear your story. So please share with me why you are involved, why you believe so deeply in our University and how your WJU education has helped shape your life. Please email your stories to me at president@wju.edu.

Sincerely,

Lucret Lux Vestra
President, Wheeling Jesuit University
President Richard Beyer & wife Cindy answer your questions

What attracted you to Higher Education and Wheeling Jesuit?

I’ve been affiliated with higher education for more than 16 years. For the past 10 years my professional compass has been pointing me toward higher education and over the past couple of years I have been making plans to retire from the technology field and transition into higher education. The internal professional compass I refer to doesn’t tell us the specific road to travel, but what direction to head. So when our paths crossed and as I became more knowledgeable about WJU, it became clear this was the right journey and destination to pursue.

I was introduced to Wheeling Jesuit in June of 2010 during the presidential search process. As I started to research the institution, I became very impressed with Wheeling Jesuit during my research and was very impressed with the strong academic and research culture as well as the overall sense of the University, from its Jesuit/Catholic mission, its undergraduate and graduate programs and the beautiful campus. These attributes really made me realize that this was a great place. I feel and see all the good this University has to offer to students and what it can become. As good as this University is, it has even greater potential for success.

In the next six months, what are your top priorities?

Increasing enrollment is the number one priority. The reason for this priority is to have our education operations become self-funding. We have the capacity to service more students and we will work to shore up the 2011 class. From April 4 through Sept. 30 we will be collaborating with all our campus community, including alumni, on a five-year strategic plan. This planning process will help us chart our course for the future. I expect the plan to be approved by the Board of Directors in December. The strategic plan would be implemented for 2012 to 2017.

What are some of the financial issues facing the University and what is your plan for long-term stability and growth?

Our core educational revenues are less than our expenses, so we’re running a deficit. We expect over the next couple of years to reach self-funding of our education operations which includes funding depreciation and debt service. As the delivery of education becomes self-funding, it will allow Wheeling Jesuit to use its external funds for strategic purposes. We need to build a strategic fund for important needs at the University. This fund would help to build or renovate residence halls and other facilities. We also will need to work with corporations and foundations for long-term growth of our endowment.

“...keep the mission, vision and identity of the institution front and center.”
Could you share some memories about your Catholic upbringing and worshipping on campus?

I grew up in Detroit as part of a large Polish, Catholic family. I remember our family going to St. Hedwig’s Church. My mother was in the choir and quite often I would go to choir practice with her in the evenings. Her involvement in the choir and her love of music had an influence on me. I attended Epiphany Grade School in Detroit also and still have memories of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who taught us there.

Attending Mass at the Chapel of Mary and Joseph provides a real sense of community and support for me. The workdays are long and I enjoy going to Fr. Steltenkamp’s Wednesday evening Mass. I get a little break from all of the work and the Wednesday evening Mass allows me time for reflection, prayer and discernment.

As the first lay president in WJU history, what is your plan for keeping the Jesuit identity front and center?

Serving 16 years on governing boards has helped me realize how important it is for a University to keep the mission, vision and identity of the institution front and center. Those years of training along with the fact that I am the first lay president are at the front of my consciousness on a daily basis. While we work to reach new heights of success, we must foster our Jesuit, Catholic identity and not lose sight of our mission. My close relationship with Jesuits like Fr. Jim Fleming, my chief of staff, Fr. Jim O’Brien, Fr. Brian O’Donnell and the other members of the Jesuit community help me keep the mission and Jesuit identity in focus and serve as a natural reinforcement.

What can alumni do to help you and their alma mater?

I believe a very good goal for our alumni would be for Wheeling Jesuit to become the number one Jesuit school in alumni giving percentage. That means participation. So, I am asking all alumni to make a gift, no matter the size, because I want to strive for our alumni giving percentage to be 100 percent.

Second, I would ask alumni to communicate to us why WJU is so important to them and what makes Wheeling Jesuit special. I want to know about those experiences and why their time was so special and why they continue to support Wheeling Jesuit.

Third, I need the alumni to introduce us to high school principals, superintendents, guidance counselors and potential students. This will help our recruitment efforts and help spread the great news about Wheeling Jesuit. I encourage alumni to connect with Larry Vallar, our new vice president of Enrollment Management. (lvallar@wju.edu)

Please make sure you get involved. Come to alumni events. Come to campus. Serve as a class agent or on Alumni Council. Let me know if you have questions by emailing me at president@wju.edu.

In what ways will you and your wife Cindy become involved in the greater Wheeling community?

Both Cindy and I are already getting involved in the community. Cindy is working with Fr. Fleming and the service office on campus to see how she might best serve people in the local community. I hope to become more involved with the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Economic Development Partnership. We know that Wheeling Jesuit and the city of Wheeling are interdependent. Cindy and I want to be involved in the community, attend events and show our support to our new, adopted city.

BRADDOCK GIFT OF $310,985 REFLECTS A VISION OF PHILANTHROPY

Wheeling resident Dorothy Richards Weiler Braddock died Jan. 25, 2010 and left behind a legacy of caring. Her final wishes carried out the careful planning done for many years by her husband, Dr. John Braddock. Their generosity included a gift of $310,985 to Wheeling Jesuit University.

“We are very grateful to Dorothy and John Braddock and appreciate their generosity and planning,” said Vice President of Institutional Advancement Jim Holt. “The Braddocks were distinguished community leaders and deeply appreciated Catholic education and the work of the Jesuits in Wheeling. We thank them and honor their memory.”

Dorothy Braddock was born in Fair Haven, Vt. She was a graduate of the Massachusetts General Hospital Nursing School and married Wheeling physician Howard G. Weiler, M.D. after graduation. After Dr. Weiler’s passing in 1972, she married her second husband John Braddock, D.D.S., in 1976 and he passed away in 1986.

Dr. Braddock was a leader in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and is considered a founding member of Our Lady of Peace parish and school, located in the Mount Olivet neighborhood of Wheeling, where the Braddocks resided. He also was a founding member of the Good Shepherd Nursing Home in 1970.

Though a dentist, Dr. Braddock spent his life leading the operation of his family business, Wheeling Bronze Casting Company. He was known as an astute financial planner and worked for the Diocese and Bishop Joseph H. Hodges for many years. His generosity was well known in the early years at Wheeling College.

Dorothy Braddock was a member of the Economic Development Partnership. We tend events and show our support to our new, adopted city.

Q&A

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Wheeling Jesuit University has hired four top executives to lead divisions of the University.

**Jim Holt** assumed the position of vice president of Institutional Advancement on Jan. 3. Holt brings senior executive marketing skills to WJU, which will be most helpful in the University’s efforts to expand its reach and communicate its aspirations to raise development funds. Most recently Holt had been performing strategic business consulting with clients that include: Goodyear, P&G, Notice, Binary Tree, Vocollect and DATATRAK. Prior to that, he was president of Wolcott Group in Akron, Ohio.

Holt earned his undergraduate degree in business administration, concentrating in accounting, with a minor in computer science from Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa., in 1980. Also joining the senior leadership team is **Stephen Stahl, Ph.D.**, who began his duties as chief academic officer Aug. 2.

Stahl was most recently special assistant to the provost for Program Development at St. Bonaventure University in New York, where he also held the position of dean of the School of Arts and Sciences from 2003 – 2009. Prior to 2003, Stahl held the position of vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the college at Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va. Before that he was dean of Natural and Social Sciences and Professional Studies at State University of New York, (SUNY), Fredonia, N.Y. and chair of the department of geology at Central Michigan University.

Stahl taught at all of the above institutions and published extensive scholarly work in the field of geology, both nationally and internationally. He earned his bachelor’s of science degree from Washington & Lee and both his master’s and doctorate in geological sciences from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

**Larry Vallar** began his duties as vice president of Enrollment Management in January. He comes to Wheeling Jesuit from his alma mater, Olivet College, Mich., where he served as vice president for Enrollment Management. He had held that position since 2006. At Olivet, he had oversight of enrollment management, financial aid, registrar’s office and athletics. During the past three years, Vallar’s team set consecutive records in enrollment at Olivet.

Prior to his success at Olivet, Vallar was the regional director of operations for Dollar General Corp., in Michigan. There, he was responsible for oversight of a budget of $189 million. Additionally, he has significant entrepreneurial, sales and operations experience. His entrepreneurial leadership includes owning a family veterinarian hospital. He earned his undergraduate degree in business from Olivet College in 1984.

Also joining the Institutional Advancement team is **Joseph Buch**, who has assumed the role of director of planned giving and major gifts. Most recently, Buch was with Bailey, Riley, Buch & Harman, where he practiced in estate planning, will and trust creation, probate, real estate, business planning and commercial litigation. Buch also was formerly a vice president and trust division manager with United Bank, Inc., Wealth Management Group of Wheeling.

Buch brings to the Office of Institutional Advancement a wealth of experience with regard to the many tax-advantaged techniques for institutional support to benefit the donor and University alike. Buch earned his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Notre Dame and his juris doctorate from West Virginia University College of Law. He is a member of both the West Virginia and Florida state bars.

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**Kelly Brewe**, instructor in nursing, formerly taught at Westmoreland Community College and held non-academic positions at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC and the Allegheny County Jail. She holds an associate degree in nursing from Westmoreland Community College, a bachelor’s in nursing from California University of Pennsylvania, and master of science in nursing with a specialty of forensic nursing from Duquesne University.

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FOUR FACULTY MEMBERS CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF TEACHING AT WJU

The start of the 2010 academic year marked a milestone for four members of the WJU faculty—30 years of service to the University.

Dr. Margaret Bowman, Dr. Theodore Erickson, Dr. Helen Faso and Dr. Rose Kutlenios observed 30 years of teaching at WJU on Aug. 16, when the opening gathering for faculty, staff and administrators was held. The professors were honored by the University at that time.

Associate professor of nursing, Margaret “Maggie” Bowman first began teaching at Wheeling Jesuit in the fall of 1980. Bowman earned her bachelor’s degree at West Virginia University, her master’s at the University of Maryland and her doctorate at Case Western Reserve University.

Mathematics professor, Theodore “Ted” Erickson, a resident of Wheeling for the past 30 years, earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of South Dakota and both his master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Massachusetts.

Professor of nursing, Helen Faso, earned a diploma from Ohio Valley General Hospital, a bachelor of nursing degree from West Virginia University and a master of nursing degree from the Medical College of Georgia and a doctorate in nursing from the University of Texas.

Professor of nursing, Rose Kutlenios began her teaching career at WJU in January 1980, teaching nursing. Kutlenios earned her bachelor’s from Duquesne and a doctorate and two master degrees in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh. Her specialty field is psychiatric-mental health nursing.

A Jesuit education continues to be an excellent value for our students, one that is recognized annually by the U.S. News listing,” said Dr. Stephen Stahl, chief academic officer at WJU. “We’re pleased to share this news with our students, alumni, donors and the community. We invite anyone desiring to discover the difference in Jesuit education to visit us soon.”

The rankings examine 572 universities, the same number of schools as last year, within four geographic areas—North, South, Midwest and West. The institutions in this category provide a full range of undergraduate and master’s programs.

The 2011 edition of U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges” ranks WJU number 22 in the “Best Regional Universities” in the South, making it the highest ranked university in West Virginia in this category, a distinction WJU has held for 14 consecutive years.

The annual rating system changed in some ways this year.

“We have made some changes in the ranking methodology. In the 2011 edition, schools are designated National Universities, National Liberal Arts Colleges (last year it was Liberal Arts Colleges), Regional Universities (last year it was Universities-Master’s), and Regional Colleges (last year it was Baccalaureate Colleges). The number of colleges in the two regional categories did not change, and schools are still ranked in four regions,” explained the U.S. News press information packet.

Numerically, U.S. News now ranks the top 75 percent of schools in each category, up from 50 percent. Over the past two decades, the college rankings, which group schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, has become a popular research tool for students and parents considering higher education opportunities.

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Two of the WJU professors honored in the “Best Colleges” publication.

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U.S. NEWS RANKS WJU TOPS IN BEST COLLEGES PUBLICATION

Wheeling Jesuit University ranks the highest of any West Virginia institution of higher education in regional universities in the South, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2011 “Best Colleges” publication.

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EILEEN CARPINO, WJU LIBRARIAN EMERITA PASSES AWAY

Long-time librarian at Wheeling Jesuit Eileen Carpino passed away Thursday, Aug. 19 at her residence.

Carpino was beloved by many graduates, faculty and employees of the University and remained active in WJU alumni and campus community life. Most recently, she enjoyed the 2010 Alumni Weekend events.

Carpino was a founding member of the Wheeling College staff, joining the campus community in 1955. She served Wheeling Jesuit for 46 years before retiring in 2001, at which time the University honored Carpino with the title Librarian Emerita.

She received her undergraduate degree from Catherine Spaulding University and her graduate degree from Catholic University. Carpino was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Wheeling Jesuit in 2004.

BIOLOGY MAJOR RECEIVES AWARD from National IDeA Symposium for Research

Burkhart was one of only 11 students nationally who received this award.

Burkhart traveled to the bennial science meeting with WJU Biology Professor Rob Shurina, WJU research technician Tara Richard ’09 and senior biology major Kaleigh Dami.

Burkhart gave a public talk and explanation of her poster at the meeting.

‘Her award was merit based and peer reviewed, so it’s very impressive that Brittany was selected from the 23 states and Puerto Rico attending,’ said Dr. Shurina.

Burkhart’s research involves the scientific investigation of angiogenesis and cancer research.

The conference was held in June and offered scientific presentations and open discussions of hot topics in the biological research world. More than 100 institutions participated with more than 450 abstracts and posters presented by the 1,000 participants.

The IDeA program consists of COBRE and INBRE programs. These groundbreaking initiatives have led to new organization of scientific programs and training for productive research careers.

Brittany Burkhart earned a prestigious $1,000 travel award that took her to a National IDeA Symposium for Biomedical Research Excellence in Bethesda, Maryland.
STUDENTS TAKE THEIR RESEARCH ON THE ROAD

Wheeling Jesuit University psychology students took their research on the road, presenting projects at the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Society for Psychophysiological Research last fall.

“This is a milestone year and our students experienced an important moment in research,” said psychology professor Dr. Bryan Raudenbush. Joining Raudenbush at the conference in Oregon were six more psychology majors: August Capiola and senior psychology majors, Mark Sappington, adjunct instructor of psychology, Kristin McCombs ’05 and Jonathan Kolks ’10.

Research topics, presenters and a brief description of the research are:

Effects of Video Game Play on Pain Distraction - The current study examined whether the Nintendo Wii tennis video game can serve as a distraction from pain perception and increase pain tolerance. The study found participants were able to tolerate the pain significantly longer in the play condition and participants thought they performed better in the play condition. Implications for such research include providing an adjunct to pharmaceuticals for pain management techniques.

Effects of Peppermint Scent Distraction on Cognitive Video Game Performance: A Psychophysical Explanation - The present study assessed the combination of video game play and peppermint scent administration on physiology, mood, performance, and task load. In terms of physiological data, control group participants had a significantly lower pulse change and diastolic blood pressure change; whereas, participants in the peppermint scent condition experienced no significant difference in pulse, suggesting that the scent administration promoted greater physiological arousal, thus keeping them more engaged in the testing process. Implications include the combination of video games and a physiologically arousing scent (specifically, peppermint) to further promote cognitive performance.

Physiological Responses of Food Neophobics and Food Neophilics to Food and Non-Food Stimuli - The present study assessed physiological reactions of food neophobics and neophilics to pictures of food and non-food stimuli. No significant differences were found between the groups in relation to non-food stimuli. However, pulse, GSR (galvanic skin response) and respirations were significantly increased in food neophobics when presented pictures of food stimuli. Thus, further evidence is provided to support a physiological component at least partially responsible for differences noted between neophobics and neophilics in sensitivity, psychophysical ratings, and willingness to try personality.

SPONSORED PROGRAMS RECEIVES $135,000 BENEDUM FOUNDATION GRANT

Wheeling Jesuit University’s Sponsored Programs received a $135,000 grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to create the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center to expand business and economic development in the Northern Panhandle.

The Center will provide services such as technical assistance, SBIR/STTR development assistance, student business planning assistance, commercialization assistance and referrals.

“We are very pleased to have received this grant from the Benedum Foundation, which continues to support growth and development in West Virginia. The funds awarded from the Foundation not only reinforce the entrepreneurial spirit of Wheeling Jesuit University, but also reinforce the commitment that WJU has to the Northern Panhandle area,” said Dave McKeever, vice president of Sponsored Programs.

The Foundation makes grants in three program areas that span both states: education, economic development and civic engagement. In addition, the Foundation supports programs that are unique to each state; in West Virginia, they are health & human services and community development.

Rev. Jim O’Brien helped lure Fr. Buckius to the Schmidt Lounge where he was greeted by members of the campus and serenaded by those gathered. There was plenty of cake and ice cream for all who gathered.

Fr. Buckius also marked 70 years in the Society of Jesus in June.

What’s his advice for growing old? “I am not growing old, just growing older.”

“I am not growing old, just growing older.”
Alumni often comment—sometimes in a worrisome way—that “Wheeling College isn’t like it was back in the day.” They are correct … It’s not. If it were, we’d still be playing in the old gym, fewer students would be engaged in research with faculty, and residence halls would not have AC.

Although there are several differences between the Wheeling College some alums remember and the Wheeling Jesuit University of this new millennium, one aspect of the Jesuit educational experience has not changed. Today, as in the past, WJU offers its students intellectually informed serious conversations about important topics in a moral context. There are several different and equally worthy ways to describe the Jesuit educational experience. The one I offer here is but one of many that might be helpful to consider. Think of what this four-part description outlines as an educational experience.

1. Intellectually informed: “This is a university, my dears,” I heard a Jesuit remind his students last fall as I passed his classroom, “you’re supposed to be confused.” The 450-year tradition of Jesuit education flourishes on the old Steenrod farm in these rolling hills of Appalachia. Discussions—whether they take place in the classroom, in the B-Room or the barroom—are packed with established knowledge heard for the first time and aimed at uncovering new knowledge as the inquiry continues.

2. Serious conversations: We’ve all been involved in late-night discussions among friends on the way back from practice, after rehearsal or while watching ESPN. Meaningless banter can unexpectedly grow into intense exchanges about topics as new knowledge and reflection on experience combine to reveal the possible consequences of holding this or that opinion. We polish our repartee. We test-out a new argument with a teammate. We speak a long-known but yet revealed truth to a roommate who will be a friend for life.

3. Important topics: A Jesuit university is oriented toward the uncompromising and unrestricted pursuit of truth and excellence in all disciplines. At Jesuit universities knowledge gained through inquiry brings with it the responsibility to act justly, to deepen their faith, to prepare for active participation in service to the community and churches and to understand political-economic interdependence. Learning is complex and overlapping—not limited to the formal direct instruction of the lecture hall.

4. A moral context: How many of us have breathed a sigh of relief thinking we’ve exhausted all possibilities on a certain topic—feeling sure we will be viewed with awe and admiration by all within ear shot—only to be stopped dead in our rhetorical tracks by an ethical incongruity raised by a faculty member or friend. Who of us has not been reminded of our finitude when, in prayer, we are opened to a possibility that arises from our conscience finally able to break through with simple holy clarity?

These four distinctive aspects of the Jesuit educational experience have remained constant at WJU: intellectually informed serious conversations about important topics in a moral context.

Let me offer some recently collected evidence of the presence and shape of this Jesuit educational experience here at WJU. The sidebars throughout the section provide examples of how alumni and current students put this into practice.
The Jesuit Educational Experience

In the spring 2010, 68 percent of the seniors at Wheeling Jesuit responded to email invitations to complete a 30-item questionnaire called the Wheeling Jesuit University Senior Survey 2010 (WJUSS ’10). The WJU respondents were representative of the entire graduating class of 2010. Nationally, 3,300 seniors from five Jesuit universities also participated in the survey.

In reviewing the responses, we found that WJU students share many of the characteristics of students at other American Jesuit universities. We also discovered that Wheeling Jesuit has a culture of academic engagement. More distinctive, however, is WJU’s culture of service. But the most distinctive aspect of the undergraduate experience at WJU is the culture of religious and spiritual reflection.

The WJU class of 2010 reported a culture of intellectual engagement that extended beyond the classroom in which faculty played a crucial role. Eighty-three percent identified a faculty member as a mentor and nearly all seniors reported that they had conversations outside of class with their faculty (starting with 68 percent during their first year and growing to 98 percent by senior year).

The activity that seemed to most clearly define the intellectual culture for WJU undergraduates was “participation in research with their faculty.” In a finding unmatched by the other schools that participated, 40 percent of Wheeling Jesuit undergraduates took part in research with faculty. On average at U.S. colleges and universities, only 19 percent take part in faculty research. This distinguishes WJU as the rare institution that fosters critical thinking through scientific investigation in its undergraduate programs.

The results from the Senior Survey also highlighted a culture of service. Community service was the most common co-curricular activity—72 percent of the seniors reported participating in volunteer community service at some point during their undergraduate years—compared to the national average of 60 percent. Each year, more than 45 percent of the undergraduates participate in volunteer or community service activities. There was no significant difference between the percentage of men and women who participated.

WJU changes students thinking and acting related to community service. During their first year at WJU, 45 percent of the class of 2010 said they planned on doing community service. By senior year 72 percent reported having participated. This 60 percent increase in participation in community service seems directly attributable to the impact of the campus culture on its students. Of those who participated in community service, 85 percent said it had a significant impact on their undergraduate experience.

Seniors also reported that their experiences of alternative Spring Break programs—both domestic and international—were an important part of their experience. Of those who participated in these programs, 83 percent reported that the trips were "a significant or extremely significant part of their WJU experience." WJU seniors reported participation in domestic immersion programs at a higher rate than students at the four other Jesuit universities who completed the Boston College Questionnaire in 2008. Students reported there is a strong culture of religious and spiritual reflection. This culture of reflection can be seen in their participation in regular prayer/meditation, conversations about their beliefs with friends and faculty, and a surprisingly high rate of participation in retreats.

Undergraduate research is a hallmark of the Wheeling Jesuit educational experience since it allows students to take part in learning that incorporates classroom theory into hands-on research.

Many Wheeling Jesuit faculty introduce student research at the undergraduate level—an uncommon trait at many institutions—opening the door for statewide, national and international conferences presentations and accolades.

A recent research project by psychology students incorporates the learning principles from classroom into a real life experiment with goldfish—a unique lab partner.

“Our students designed a very successful demonstration of operant and classical conditioning in goldfish,” said Dr. Debra Hull, professor of psychology. “The success that the psychology students enjoyed is a result of their effective training methods and ongoing efforts.”

Over nine weeks, 15 psychology students interacted with eight goldfish using four large tanks that were outfitted with equipment. Throughout the experiment, the fish learned target responding, how to swim through tunnels and hoops, as well as how to play soccer and respond to stimuli.

“We saw that learning principles apply across the board,” said senior Mike Seals. “You think goldfish are dumb but in reality, the fish have better memories than most people think.”

Principles learned in the fish laboratory had an impact on their human trainers. Senior Stefanie Mertz said, “I’ve learned patience with these fish. What I wanted isn’t always what the fish will do, which is good experience for future work with clients.”

“Each fish is different,” added senior Andrew Groves. “Steph and I both had a problem with one fish and ended up learning that you can’t always make a fish learn. So we had to change our method.”

Learning... RESEARCH PROVIDES UNDERGRADUATES

The Chronicon

Learning... VALUABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Another important part of a lab project like this, Dr. Hull said, is that the research forces students to observe the fish prior to training in order to see their natural tendency, thus increasing the student’s powers of observation.

Independent research like the fish project is important because it allows students to get experiences outside the classroom, making them more marketable to potential grad schools or employers, because they have skills that go beyond the classroom,” said Dr. Bryan Raudenbush, director of Undergraduate Research at WJU.

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Serving...A Life-Changing Experience

Noah Riley. “Service shows students that there is more to life than earning money—it is up to us to alleviate the problems in our society and shape a just future while spreading peace and joy.”

Riley understands first-hand the impact of serving one’s community. A resident at WJU’s Mother Jones House, an off-campus, intentional Christian life community located in East Wheeling, he and seven others take a stand for the underserved everyday by working with inner-city children, the homeless and shut-ins.

“Though I’m not 100 percent sure what I want to do with the rest of my life, I know one thing for certain. I want to devote my life to God and to serving His People. Service facilitated this calling of mine and led to wonderful experiences that I wouldn’t trade for the world,” Riley said.

Sophomore Laura Kane agrees that service gets her closer to God. She also finds it enjoyable.

“Service is a way I give back to God. I’m always so happy after service runs. There is nothing better than sharing such a wonderful experience with a unique group of people,” Kane said. “Service for me includes laughing, giving, bonding, praising and is a great way to de-stress. No other college offers such a focus on giving to others.”

Students agree that service makes the WJU educational experience worthwhile.

“I know I’ll take what I’ve learned and apply it to my life. I wouldn’t be the same person I am today if I hadn’t learned so much about myself. I’ve become stronger than I ever imagined I could be. I wouldn’t have the person I am today if I didn’t have the same motivation and will power if I hadn’t been for service,” Kane said.

The service office works year-round providing these life-changing opportunities for students. Perhaps the most popular co-curricular activity. More than 40 percent of respondents participated in a retreat while at WJU and of that group, 82 percent found retreats to be a regular place to experience this “culture of reflection.” After volunteer-community service, retreats were the second most popular co-curricular activity. More than 61 percent of respondents participated in a retreat while at WJU and of that group, 82 percent found retreats to be a regular place to experience this “culture of reflection.”

Continued on page 20

Believing Kairos Retreats Provide Spiritual Development

Kairos retreats offer students a way to grow and explore their relationships with family, friends and God—helping the spiritual and educational development of those who attend.

Rev. Harry Geb, S.J., assistant director of campus ministry and retreat coordinator said Kairos weekends are important because they offer students the chance to explore their relationships. The goal of Kairos is that the connection to God, family and friends that students experience during the retreat will flow into a sense of Christian compassion for all human beings.

“Many students told me that their Kairos retreat was a major turning point for them in their lives as young adults,” said Fr. Geb.

Staffed by a team of nine students who have previously made the retreat, each has a role in the weekend—some giving inspiring witness talks about their personal challenges and others leading group discussions. Held at WJU’s Lantz Farm in Lewisburg, W.Va., Geb said the retreat center provides the perfect setting for reflection and the hubbub of campus life.

“At Kairos, our students hear student team leaders give powerful, honest witness talks and where they see God working in their lives. In small groups, students are able to share about their relationships with family, friends and God,” he noted. Kairos, “has been a powerful college experience for so many WJU students over the years.”

Senior Catherine “Cat” D’Onorio explained that Kairos offers personal reflection — it is a time of great community.

“Kairos is awesome because it gives people that chance to open up and share things with each other that normally do not come up in every day conversation. After the retreat I felt connected to the people who attended because I was able to catch a glimpse into their personal lives. Kairos forms a strong community as we are made aware each other’s struggles and learn to love each other for who we are and who we are becoming,” D’Onorio added.

“Kairos is simply the best experience I’ve had in college,” said philosophy major Eddie Peters. “I went on the retreat during a transition period of my life. I was beginning to move from an immature, ‘I can do things on my own’ attitude to a more realistic, dependent point of view.” He said in the year before he went on Kairos he lived off campus by himself and was somewhat isolated.

“I cannot figure out why I signed up, but I now know there was a reason I went. Kairos gave me time I always needed but never took, to reflect on my life in general, and specifically, on the ideology of thinking I should try to achieve my selfish goals without seeing the role that the help of other people plays in my life.”

“Kairos touches a side of one’s self, which we all have and most of us neglect. That side is the deeply loving, selfless portion of the soul that we glimpse at when we see a mother giving herself to her children or a stranger helping a stranger. We often forget to help that stranger, mimic that mother—we go to college in the cycle of everyday life. Kairos offered me the chance to make just how loved we are and how little we acknowledge that, and it encourages us to look for opportunities to love others—to listen, to smile, to hug, to laugh. These actions aren’t their own. They aren’t foreign. They’re inside us. And that’s what Kairos taught me.”

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One was more surprising than the others: 82% of the undergraduates reported that “building strong friendships” was the activity that had the greatest single impact on their spiritual/religious growth during their undergraduate years. Even the most worrisome alumni surely can identify with the Jesuit experience reported by the class of 2010. It’s true that college students, like all of us, tend to act their way into new ways of thinking, rather than think their way into new ways of acting. “WJU undergrads are acting very much like those who have walked before them through those hills of West Virginia and that journey has changed their thinking.

For Dan Titner, serving others is a humbling and healthy experience—one that has given him a great perspective on life.

The 1996 graduate returned to Northern Virginia and began working. Titner said, “It was a pretty typical post-college existence—a lot of enjoyment, but not a lot of direction.” After five years of working, he was becoming increasingly dissatisfaction and knew it was time for a change.

In 2000 he realized he wanted a more—“I wanted to serve,” he said. Galvanizing this渴望 was a chance to serve overseas. In April 2001, Titner moved to Alamosa, Colo. to begin work at La Puente Home, an organization that provides shelter and other services for the local community and migrant farm workers. While in Colorado, his life changed in many ways—he met his wife Annette, became the Home’s full-time volunteer coordinator and he realized, “I had made ‘the right choice.’

After three and a half years, Titner and his wife moved to Minnesota. “When we arrived, it seemed relevant, but, when done with joy, are rewarding.”

Titner said service is a million little menial tasks that may or may not be a physician,” she explained.

For Mike Conway, ’02 plans to put the talents he developed at WJU and at the seminary to use serving the parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Conway said Wheeling Jesuit helped him to grow as a leader and become more self-confident—two traits he knows will be helpful as a priest. “I think the best thing that WJU helped me do was identify my gifts—identifying ones I didn’t know I had—and then help me develop those gifts. I never considered myself to be a leader or self-confident before I came to WJU—today I do.”

With his continued education going full tilt, Conway is at peace with his decision to become a priest.

“I can’t point to one single moment of epiphany,” Conway said of his decision to enter the priesthood. He said the Church always was central in his life and on several occasions felt “called.” After entering the ‘real world,’ he knew something still was missing. Even then, he continued working. “I wasn’t until he attended the ordination of Jesuits at Loyola Baltimore that I felt I began to make sense.”

A conversation with Rev. Dan Joyce, S.J., former administrator at WJU, during a visit to campus “paved the way for a series of longer, more in-depth conversations that helped me realize that I wanted to offer myself to the Church.”

The more Conway thought about the priesthood, the more he could see himself entering. “Finally reached the point where I had to roll the dice and see if this is my call.”

So he quit his job, entered the seminary. “I have no regrets-only a sense of peace.”

Ideally, Conway hopes that once he finishes his education, he will be assigned as a parish priest. “That’s where all the excitement is—the greatest chance to be a part of people’s lives.”

After six years teaching, then working for a mortgage firm and financial services company, Conway entered St. Paul Seminary. In May 2010, Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik assigned Conway for further formation at the Pontifical North American College, with further theological study at the Pontifical Gregorian University, both in Rome.

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The Jesuit Educational Experience

Serving: Titner Dedicated to Helping Others

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Women’s Volleyball Completes Three-peat and Sweeps WVIAC Awards

The WJU Volleyball team fell to Clarion in the finals of the NCAA Division II regional tournament, this after capturing their third WVIAC Championship.

The team finished WVIAC regular season play with a flawless 14-0 record and did not drop a single set in any of its matches. The Lady Cardinals carried that momentum into the conference tournament with victories over West Liberty University, the University of Charleston, and Alderson-Broaddus College—notching their third WVIAC tournament title in as many years.

Freshman Jenna Pew received the tournament’s Most Valuable Player Award while three additional players were named to the 2010 WVIAC All-Tournament Team. Senior Keysha Allison made her third All-Tournament Team appearance while junior Kristen DuBroy and freshman Casey Gates were first time recipients.

During the 2010 campaign, Wheeling Jesuit’s 29-4 overall regular season record propelled them into the national spotlight. On Nov. 8, 2010, the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II Top 25 Poll ranked WJU 24th in the nation.

Wheeling Jesuit claimed all of the WVIAC’s major volleyball awards this season. Head Coach Christy Benner was named Coach of the Year while the WVIAC Player of the Year Award was earned by senior libero Laura O’Reilly, who anchored the defense for Lady Cardinals.

Pew was named the WVIAC Freshman of the Year. The middle blocker dominated league play and led the WVIAC in hitting percentage and blocks while finishing third in kills.

In addition, WJU had four players named to the WVIAC First-Team and two members of the All-Freshman Team. First-Team award winners were Allison, O’Reilly, Allissa Ware and Pew while the Freshman Team consisted of Gates and Pew.

Wheeling Jesuit Men’s Cross Country Take WVIAC Title

After controlling the top spot in the WVIAC rankings throughout the entire season, the men’s cross country team captured the 2010 WVIAC Championship with a strong individual performance.

Wheeling Jesuit held a 23-point advantage over the field, finishing ahead of West Virginia Wesleyan, with Concord University, Seton Hill University, and Alderson-Broaddus College rounding out the top five teams.

Several Wheeling Jesuit athletes were recognized for their individual performances at the championship meet. The Cardinals secured top honors while five athletes were named to the All-WVIAC team.

Dustin Hall entered the championship race as the league’s top athlete and did not disappoint. Hall crossed the finish line first with a time of 25:56, earning the WVIAC Cross Country Athlete of the Year Award and also secured a spot on the First-Team All-WVIAC.

Nick Bonaventure and Stewart Jones also landed on the WVIAC’s First-Team with their performances – Bonaventure finished fifth while Jones captured seventh place.

WJU Inducts Three into Athletic Hall of Fame

Three former Cardinal greats were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame during homecoming weekend Oct. 23.

This year’s class included Mandy Yustak Turnbull ’97, women’s basketball, Craig Buel ’98, men’s cross country and track and Matt Staley ’90, swimming.

Turnbull, a Pittsburgh native, was a member of the Wheeling Jesuit women’s basketball program from 1993 – 1997.

As a Lady Cardinal, she was part of the WVIAC Tournament championship team, regular season championship team and the National Tournament team. Turnbull was a two-time WVIAC player and a member of the winningest team in Lady Cardinal history. She set five school records and finished her career with 1,230 points.

Tumbull graduated from WJU with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She earned a master’s degree in education and is certified to teach elementary education.

Buel, a native Huntington, W.Va., was a member of the Cardinal cross country and track and field teams from 1994 – 1998. He earned WVIAC and conference honors all four years in cross country. He was the first male runner from WJU and the 10th in conference history to accomplish that feat.

Earning the WVIAC Freshman of the Year Award was Luke Holubeck, who placed 11th, and earning Second-Team All-WVIAC honors. Joining Holubeck with All-WVIAC Second-Team was freshman Patrick Stanton.

In addition, Wheeling Jesuit earned another piece of hardware as Head Coach, Ricky Moore, was honored with the 2010 WVIAC Coach of the Year Award for men and women’s cross country.
Men’s Soccer Team Finishes with Winning Record

The Wheeling Jesuit Men’s Soccer team finished the 2010 season with a record of 10-9-1, ranking fifth in the conference with a 4-4-1 WVIAC mark. The Cardinals advanced to the conference semifinal game before falling to top-ranked Charleston.

The team fought hard all season, capping the campaign off in a rain-soaked 1-0 victory in the season finale against Seton Hill — securing the Cards spot in the playoffs.

The team’s success was recognized as six Cardinal players received All-Conference honors.

Sophomore Paul Silvestrone earned WVIAC Second-Team honors for his efforts this season. Silvestrone led the Cardinals’ attack, totaling 10 points with five goals.

Junior midfielder Andrew Hickey earned WVIAC Second-Team accolades for his efforts this season. Hickey scored two goals and had three assists in 17 games this season.

Freshman Kevin Robson also was named to the WVIAC Second-Team. Robson notched six points with two goals and two assists this season. Rounding out the Cardinals’ WVIAC honors was sophomore Victor Pichin, who collected four assists and three goals.

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Senior Stephanie Marazza was named to the WVIAC Second-Team for her defensive efforts this season. Sophomore midfielder Ashley McGinnis was named to the WVIAC Second-Team for the second year in a row. She tallied nine points this season with two goals and five assists.

Senior defender Ashley Morris earned WVIAC Honorable Mention honors for her defensive efforts this season.

Sophomore Billy Wilson was named to the WVIAC First-Team for his defensive efforts. Senior goalkeeper Shane Young earned WVIAC Second-Team accolades in his final season as he collected 99 saves with a .805 save percentage.

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Senior Stephanie Marazza was named to the WVIAC Second-Team for her defensive efforts this season. Sophomore midfielder Ashley McGinnis was named to the WVIAC Second-Team for the second year in a row. She tallied nine points this season with two goals and five assists.

Senior defender Ashley Morris earned WVIAC Honorable Mention honors for her defensive efforts this season.

Sophomore Billy Wilson was named to the WVIAC First-Team for his defensive efforts. Senior goalkeeper Shane Young earned WVIAC Second-Team accolades in his final season as he collected 99 saves with a .805 save percentage.

Sophomore Paul Silvestrone earned WVIAC Second-Team honors for his efforts this season. Silvestrone led the Cardinals’ attack, totaling 10 points with five goals.

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The Class of ’63 Fund raising results in legacy to moderator

Rev. John Coll, S.J. is a very special person—just ask the members of the class of 1963. Fr. Coll’s influence on that class has resulted in a lasting legacy for their mentor and alma mater.

In 2008, the Class of 1963 approached the University to inquire about fund raising ideas as part of their 45th anniversary celebration. That’s when the plan to fund an Office of University Mission and Identity was launched and the class jumped into action. The initial plan was for the class to raise $40,000 with another $80,000 to be raised from other donors by the Office of Institutional Advancement. In return for its efforts, the class was offered the opportunity to name the new program and chose to name it for their class moderator, Fr. Coll.

In the two years since fund raising began, the class has raised nearly $45,000 and through the efforts of Rev. James Fleming, S.J., vice president for University Mission and Identity, the additional $80,000 has been secured, which fulfills the University’s original pledge.

Linda McNalley Cunningham ’63, past class representative, said, “For more than 50 years, Fr. Coll has been a significant and identity of the Class of ’63. We consider him an honorary member—check out how many reunion photos he has shared with us. Throughout the years, he has been there for us and he symobilizes that all is good about our college experience. Raising the funds and naming the office in his honor is our way of saying thank you for the support and the memories.”

“Jesus like John have left such a strong legen of committed service at Wheeling Jesuit. This series of gifts to honor Fr. Coll recognizes the impact he had on the lives of so many students during the past 50 years. His friendship and mentorship to the class of 1963 continues to be as strong now as it was 50 years ago,” said Fr. Fleming.

“The funding that establishes the Office will support the religious and spiritual development of all of the members of the University community, especially undergraduates,” said Fr. Fleming. “Because development of the whole person is central to a Wheeling Jesuit education, programs supported by this funding could offer community members opportunities to deepen their spiritual and religious life through worship, reflection, and service.”

According to Cunningham, Roann’s late husband and classmate, Allen, was a true champion of the Class of ’63 in its efforts to fund raising efforts. He died just months after the class 45th reunion. Many classmates, alumni and friends made contributions to the fund in Allen’s memory, which helped raise awareness of the project and accelerated the donations. In the spring of 2010, at a memorial Mass for Allen, Fr. Coll told about the project and presented with a plaque to commemorate the naming of the Office.

PHILADELPHIA, PA CHAPTER

The chapter hosted the annual Pianist Open at Paoli Indigo Golf Club. More than 80 alumni and golfers attended the scramble and beer dinner that followed. Money raised from the golf outing goes to scholarships annually at WU. The annual fall golf outing was held in January at the home of Martha (Buckley) Shields ’64. Roann Wojcik and Fr. Coll attended in attendance.

CLASS OF ’63 FUND RAISING RESULTS IN LEGACY TO MODERATOR

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CLASS OF 1960 RAISES $41,500 FOR TWO PROJECTS

Thanks to the generosity of the Class of 1960, Wheeling Jesuit University physical therapy students now have a top-of-the-line smart technology classroom and the alumni center soon will have some new furnishings.

McDonough Center classroom 224 is now sporting a multimedia whiteboard turnkey system – new technology that will help faculty and students in the physical therapy department.

“This was a huge Christmas present. We haven’t had this technology in the past. It’s a major upgrade and we thank the Class of 1960 for making it possible,” said Director of Physical Therapy Craig Ruby. He added the department has wanted this technology for at least five years. “Part of our departmental strategic plan is to increase our use of modern teaching tools and improve our students’ classroom experience.”

Once Information Technology Manager Greg Shepherd defined the need, Alumni Director Kelly Klubert approached the Class of 1960 to undertake the project as part of their 50th anniversary celebration.

“We are happy to help out,” said Dr. Ed Shalaby ’60, one of the class reunion leaders. “This classroom will make a big difference in the life of many Wheeling Jesuit students, so we are pleased to fund it and support the excellent education that Wheeling Jesuit continues to deliver daily.”

The class raised $41,500, of which $12,500 went to the new classroom. The remaining funds will be used to upgrade the furnishings in the Erickson Alumni Center.

“We are grateful to our generous alumni in the class of 1960,” said Klubert. “Their gift will have an immediate impact on our PT classroom. We hope to put the remaining funds to use in Erickson soon. The class of 1960 is a shining example of living out our mission to be men and women in service of others.”

The new classroom technology allows instructors to access files, CDs, videos and documents all from one place, then project these on the screen for students. It also allows faculty to create presentations during class, meaning they can now record as they teach. Thus, instructors can create archives and classes can become a video that is perfect for student review work.

ALUMNA NETS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Alumna Cynthia Burke ’75 received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Education this past June and was recognized in December for this achievement.

Burke traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive the highest honor given to mathematics or science teachers for outstanding teaching in the United States.

She has been an educator in Marshall County for 33 years, teaching mathematics courses at Sherrard Middle School. Her love of teaching goes well beyond the classroom. She serves as a staff member for the West Virginia Department of Education’s Teacher Leadership Institute. She has developed standards-based mathematics units and project-based learning units for throughout the State. Her classroom has been designated a Model Classroom, and a video on the State website features her students engaged in activities from her standards-based algebra unit.

1987-Continued

1988
FRANCIS CICHOLISH is manager of Human Resources at Conoco Phillips (OH).

1990
CDR TOM WELSH (JAGC, USN) has been awarded his second Meritorious Service Medal for completing his tour as executive officer at the U.S. Region Legal Service Office. He served the areas of Europe, Africa and South Asia. He is now stationed in Memphis, TN.

1992
JOHN HARRISON works at the National defense University where he is head of terrorism research at the International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore.

1993
INGRID (TAYLOR) CANTERBURY is a sales associate with Bestlaminate (OH).

1994
MAUREEN (MAY) GARRIS works for Memorial Cenacle Volunteers (OH).

2001
THERESA (BOWMAN) PHIPPS and her spouse, Peter, welcomed their second child Dominic on April 18. She is senior financial auditor for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (DC).

2002
ROBERT BLOSSER works for Washington Hospital Center (MD).

2003
JESSICA (PERKINS) BOWER is supervising physical therapist for Greenbrier Valley Physical Therapy and Fitness (WV).

2004
SARAH KMET is a science teacher, head cross country coach and assistant track coach for Twinsburg City Schools (OH).

2006
REBECCA (BEARER) STEVENS is an assistant professor of Allied Health at Rowan Hospita (PA).

2010
DAVID TERRY is a PGA Professional at Nicklaus Golf Club of Georgia (GA).
ALUMNI PAUL MANGEN NAMED OPEN-WATER SWIM CHAMP

Three-time South Jersey lifeguard champion, Paul Mangen ’03 has won international, open-water swimming contests around the globe. The 11-year veteran of the Ocean City Beach Patrol has brought international fame and notoriety to his home area.

The head swimming coach at Florida's St. Leo University returns each summer to the island's north end to protect bathers and represent his beach patrol in a wide variety of lifeguard events. He's overcome numerous obstacles to become one of South Jersey's most talented open water swimmers.

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WJU ALUMNA NAMED TO USCCB ADVISORY COUNCIL

A Wheeling Jesuit alumna was one of two Pittsburgh area residents named to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ National Advisory Council.

Kelly Caddy ’02, director of the Change At Heart: Franciscan Volunteer Program, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities in Millvale, joined the 55-member panel of lay people and clergy that provides feedback to the U.S. Bishops’ Administrative Committee during its gathering in September.

Caddy pointed out that one of the most exciting aspects of the appointment is that it will bring the voice of young adults to the council. “It’s really important for young adults to be involved, to get involved and to stay involved with the church,” she said.

She is a member of the young adult leadership team for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

The Change A Heart Program mentors, supports and empowers young adults ages 18-40 who devote one year of service to the poor in full-time ministry.

ALUMNUS REMY MUNASIFI ’03 IS TOPS ON ITUNES COMEDY ALBUM LIST

An album by WJU alumnus Remy Munasifi ’03 ranked in the iTunes Top 100 comedy albums list last fall.

“The Falafel Album,” was released by Comedy Central. The album includes the tracks “Saudis in Audis,” “Grandma: The Rap,” and “Passive-Aggressive Love Song.”

Munasifi said he is very excited about the new album and that Comedy Central released it. He hopes that Wheeling Jesuit alumni will check out the new release.

It was in the fall of 2006, that Munasifi first purchase a camera and “has been making videos ever since.” His first video on the Virginia Senate race was discussed in the Washington Times and The National Journal.

“When I first started posting videos on YouTube in 2006, I would have been overjoyed to reach a dozen people. Fifty million views later, the songs—and the fun—keep coming.”

Munasifi has created a number of videos on YouTube, including “McDonald’s: The Rap,” “Hey There Khalilah,” “Arlington: the national and “my parents’ refrigerator.”

To see where Munasifi is performing next or to check out any of his videos, log onto www.GoRemy.com.

ERIN DUFFY JORGENSEN ’90 HONORED BY IRISH VOICE MAGAZINE

In May 2010, Erin Duffy ’90 was named to The Irish Voice Magazine’s Irish Life Sciences 50, a celebration of distinguished Irish Americans in the Life Science industry.

The list is comprised of Americans of Irish heritage from every aspect of the life sciences industry, from research scientists, to CEOs of medical device companies, pharmaceutical companies, professors, and venture capitalists.

All of the honorees have two things in common - pride in his or her Irish heritage and a desire to contribute to advances in the treatment of illnesses.

Duffy received her award from Irish President Mary McAleese. The event was held in The Irish Consulate in New York City.

Duffy is vice president, Discovery Research at RibX Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Rib-X Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a privately held biopharmaceutical company located in New Haven, Conn.

Duffy is a fourth generation Irish American. Her great-great-grandfather, John Charles Duffy, came to America from Roscommon, and worked as a railroad conductor. He also contributed money to the gun running effort in Ireland.

RICKY YAHN ’07 NAMED ASSISTANT COACH AT CORNELL

Cornell head men’s basketball coach Bill Courtney rounded out his first coaching staff with the hiring of Ricky Yahn ’07.

Yahn will join Marvin Sears and Jay Larranaga as the Big Red searches for its fourth straight Ivy League crown.

Yahn spent the 2009-10 season as the video coordinator at George Mason University under head coach Jim Larranaga. Yahn previously had spent one season on the sidelines at Saint Vincent College after playing professionally in England and Buffalo, N.Y.

Yahn played at Wheeling Jesuit University where he was a two-year captain. He led the team to a pair of NCAA tournaments, including a league title in 2005. Yahn was named team most valuable player and was a First-Team All-WVIAAC pick before graduating with a degree in psychology in 2007.

The 2009-10 Patriots went 17-15 and were 12-6 in the Colonial Athletic Association, good enough for third in the always-competitive CAA. George Mason earned an invitation to the CIT, the program’s third straight postseason appearance.

In his only season at Saint Vincent, Yahn helped the squad rebound from a 14-11 campaign the year before to go 22-4.

WJU GRADUATE JOINS JVCS

Wheeling Jesuit alumnus Justin Brandt is in his second year of service with Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) Northwest in Bethel, Alaska.

Brandt ’09 is one of 142 Jesuit Volunteers part of the program this year, a 15 percent increase from a year ago.

“We’re excited these committed women and men are offering a year of their lives in service and working for the transformation of our world. With the growing number of volunteers, our partner agencies will thus be able to increase their outreach and enhance the services they provide to meet the growing need,” said Jeanne Haster, executive director for JVC Northwest.
Alumni Come Back to Campus for
Homecoming Weekend

Wheeling Jesuit University’s Homecoming 2010 welcomed alumni and parents to campus in October.

More than 100 alumni and more than 125 parents and families converged on the WJU campus for two days of events which included receptions, tailgates, a dinner-theater, talent show, athletic games, a parade and band.

The weekend was a combined effort by the Alumni Relations Office, Student Development, Athletics and Business Department.

Nearly two years ago, Theresa Bowman Phipps ’01 had a vision for Homecoming Weekend and worked with Alumni Council and the Alumni Office to bring the activities to life. More than a year of planning went into the weekend.

“This was a great team effort by all,” said Kelly Hubert ’85, director of Alumni Relations. “We already are working on next year’s activities and look to build upon this year’s enthusiasm. This is a wonderful weekend for young and old, with activities for the entire family.”

Phipps said, “My family and I really enjoyed alumni homecoming weekend. There were events around the clock. I really enjoyed hanging out in the Ratt with fellow alumni and family like the old times. My family and I most enjoyed the parade and tailgate party on Saturday.”

Mark your calendar–2011 Homecoming Weekend is set for Sept. 30 to Oct. 1.

No matter the amount, $10 or $10 million, your gift shows your commitment, loyalty and gratitude for the gift you received – a Wheeling Jesuit education. Alumni contributions have a significant impact on the operation of our University – benefactors, corporations and foundations all look to the percentage of alumni giving as a basis to support funding for major endeavors.

There are many ways to give – and there is a place for all of us.

To learn more ways to get involved, contact Jim Holt, Vice President of Institutional Advancement or Joe Buch, Director of Planned Giving & Major Gifts, at 1-800-888-2586 or advancement@wju.edu.

President Richard A. Beyer’s goal of 100 percent alumni giving would make an immediate impact!
We’re aggressively marketing WJU and invite you to join the team. Help us extend our reach throughout West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and beyond! Let us showcase your story in our marketing materials and tell prospective students how Wheeling Jesuit prepared you for success in your post-graduate studies, in your career and in your life.

Whether you’re a recent grad at your first job, or have years of experience in the workforce, jot down your WJU story and email it to us, along with your year of graduation and major. Make an impact on the next generation of WJU students! Thanks for helping us strengthen the brand that is Wheeling Jesuit University.

Send your stories to: Brady Butler ’02, director of marketing, at bb Butler@wju.edu.