

View Points

COLLEGE MODEL UN TEAM DOMINATES ASU CONFERENCE

The Pope John Paul II High School College Model United Nations team was hoping to gain experience at the Arkansas State University Spring Model UN Conference March 13-14 in Jonesboro, Ark., but ended up winning 13 of 15 awards.

Of the 18 JPII students at the conference, 11 were new to the College Model UN program.

During the two-day conference, JPII students served as delegates on the Security Council, dealing with current issues, such as the conflict in Gaza and Somali pirates. They also served as delegates on the League of Nations, set in 1935 and addressing the Italian invasion of Abyssinia (Ethiopia), one of the events leading to World War II.

The JPII students were actively involved in their committees, helping to write and sponsor five resolutions or about 83 percent of the resolutions that were passed by their respective committees during the conference. Tommy Joe Bednar, Stephanie Kerrigan, Avery Story, Nick Cherry and Lauren Slinkard all saw one or more of their resolutions approved by their fellow delegates.

JPII students received 13 awards, more than any other school. Tommy Joe Bednar (UK) and Nick Cherry (UK) won Best Position Paper Awards and Joey Staley (Portugal) and Joseph Griggs (Japan) won Best Position Paper Honorable Mention Awards, all of which were given based on excellence in country research.

Nick Cherry and Tommy Joe Bednar were both selected by the college conference staff to receive Best Delegate Awards while Stephanie Kerrigan (China), Logan Pulliza (Netherlands), and Andrew Jefferies (USSR) were awarded Best Delegate Honorable Mention Awards.

In addition, four JPII students were recognized by their peers for their debating excellence with Delegate Choice Awards. Tommy Joe Bednar and Nick Cherry both received Delegate Choice Awards and Avery Story (Turkey) and Logan Pulliza (Netherlands) both received Delegate Choice Honorable Mention Awards. Overall, eight of the 18 JPII students won an award with Logan Pulliza, Avery Story, and Joey Staley winning awards at their first ever Model UN conference. In addition, Nick Cherry and Tommy Joe Bednar both won three awards, the most possible for a single delegate.

JPII Peoplechase honors Mrs. Jeannette (Jj) Ebelhar

Make plans now to attend the Sixth Running of the JPII Peoplechase at 6 p.m. Friday, May 1, at Bluegrass Yacht and Country Club in Hendersonville. As always, the Peoplechase will feature a live and silent auction, dinner, dancing and a fun time with friends, all done with a Derby theme. The guest of honor will be JPII's choral instructor and fine arts department head Jeannette (Jj) Ebelhar.

The Peoplechase is a fundraiser for JPII, and there are several ways you can help, including being a volunteer, donating an auction item, being a corporate sponsor, or buying an advertisement in the program – \$ 500 for a full page and \$250 for a half page.

For more information about tickets, sponsorships, donating an auction item, or advertising, contact Jo Lind Weaver at (615) 590-6008 or jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org.

JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

We hope to highlight the high school careers of some of our students with reference to their "feeder school."

St. Mary's School

JPII freshmen Maria Bednar and Hogan Bryant came to JPII because they relish a challenge. "I prefer challenging to boring," said Maria.

Maria and Hogan came to JPII from St. Mary's School in Clarksville, where they both attended from first through eighth grade. Friends and family members told them to expect to be academically challenged at JPII, and that's just what they found in their first year. In fact, Hogan said, "I found that it was a lot harder than I was expecting." But he didn't get discouraged. "I like the challenge," he said. "It pushes me to work, to learn more."

Maria followed her older brother, Tommy Joe, a sophomore, to JPII from St. Mary's. "He's really helped me in my freshman year," Maria said of her brother. He told her about all the different activities available to students at JPII, and helped her get involved in the Model UN program, she said. He also told her about the opportunities to be involved in JPII's theater program because he knew that is one of her interests. Maria was part of the cast for the recent production of "Hello, Dolly."

Both have to ride the bus about an hour each way to get back and forth between home and school. A lot of Maria's friends didn't understand why she wanted to go to a school so far away from home. "They realize how much I've learned in not even a full year," she said. "They're almost jealous of it, the opportunities I'm getting. It's a real blessing."

And one of the great things about JPII is that it's easy to make friends, Maria and Hogan said. "The social scene here is fantastic. You can make friends of all ages, in every class," Maria said. "There's no cliques," added Hogan, who played on the basketball and soccer teams this year. "Everybody hangs out with everybody."

Maria would tell eighth graders preparing for their freshman year at JPII next year, "You won't regret it. It's not only one of the biggest decisions they'll make, but one of the best."

"It's a great school," said Hogan. "No matter what their interest is, there's something here for them."

JPII people ... Hogan Bryant and Maria Bednar!



NEW STANDS FOR BASEBALL FIELD

Not only is Head Coach Michael Brown building the JPII baseball program on the field, he's building the facility into one that will be the envy of schools throughout Middle Tennessee.

Last year, the school added lights to SERVPRO Field, which allowed the team more practice time in February and March at the start of the season, and allowed night games. This year, new stands have been installed that will give the field a stadium look, Coach Brown said.

Behind home plate, on either side of the press box, crews have built a foundation for the new stands, which are the same as those used in the football stadium, Coach Brown explained. The foundations are 40-feet wide by 20-feet-deep and 5-feet high. The stands have 15 rows and will reach as high as the top of the press box. Each set of stands will be able to seat 300-400 people. This year, the program only had enough money to install the seating on the foundation on the third base side of the press box. The current stands will be placed on the other side of the press box until a matching set of stands can be purchased, Coach Brown said.

"It's huge," Coach Brown said of getting the new stands. With the lights, the team started playing night games last year, which allowed them to start drawing more fans, he said, "but they didn't have anywhere to sit."

He's also hoping the improved stadium will contribute to the program's efforts to make Knights baseball games even more attractive to students and fans. "We want to make baseball games at JPII an event as much as the basketball games, something students can look



JPII freshmen Matthew Catignani, left, and Tanner Hale, members of the junior varsity baseball team enjoy the new stands at the baseball field.

forward to."

Other improvements to SERVPRO Field this year include extending the concrete floor of the dugouts forward, installing railings with a screen in front of the dugouts, and painting the dugouts and pressbox.

Coach Brown expects the improvements to attract more events to the JPII campus. "We'll have people wanting us to host more tournaments when the new seats are in," he said.

The home schedule includes games: April 15, BGA, 7 p.m.; April 18, Davidson Academy, 7 p.m.; April 20, MBA, 4:30 p.m.; April 24, MBA, 4 p.m.; April 29, Brentwood Academy, 7 p.m.

'HELLO, DOLLY' SHINES ON JPII STAGE

Enthusiastic audiences enjoyed the spring musical production of "Hello, Dolly," presented by JPII and theater teacher Gary Schleimer. The popular musical follows the story of matchmaker Dolly Levi and her search for love and happiness for herself and others.

The cast included: Jordan Thornhill as Dolly; Christopher Garner as Horace Vandergelder; Zack Strehlau as Cornelius Hackl; Andrew Carr as Barnaby Tucker; Marissa Klucka as Irene Malloy; Natalie Beatty as Minnie Fay; Martin Strobel as Ambrose Kemper; Lindsey Rouselle as Ermengarde; Laura Walden as Mrs. Rose; Foster McDaniel as Rudolph Reisenweber; Kara White as Ernestina and Jeremy Wilson as the Judge.

The chorus included: Anna Burrus, Ambralin Griggs, Andrew Gilstrap, Ashlyn Keightley, Ashton Glenn, August Glenn, Brendan Melcher; Bryan Melcher; Dominic Mahoney, Dymphna Nuestro, Emily Bruchas, Emily Garretson, Foster McDaniel, Hayley Pionk, Hilary Dennen, Jacqui Long, Jose Aguilar, Laura Melcher, Lexie Walden, Maria Masa, Marie Bednar, Mary Gilstrap, Mary Hagy, Megan Lee, Rebecca Lyon, Samantha May, William

Gilstrap.

The Technical Crew included: Technical Director Matt Self; Sound Engineer Josh Pelletier; Follow Spot Operator Derek Robinson; Lighting Director Anna-Caroline Bachstein, Assistant Directors Maria Kealey and Diana Maros. Other members of the crew included: Chief Supervisor of the Run Crew Patrick Warner, Assistant Emily Pearl, Set Designers Gabe Arroyo and Anthony Kirby, Costumers Hillary Dennen, Ashlyn Keightley and Maria Botsko, Prop Crew Hillary Dennen, Ashlyn Keightley and Foster McDaniel, Makeup Crew Mary Hagy, Julia Ross, Margaret Noah, Anna Burrus, Maria Massa and Danielle Coluccio, and Head Choreographer Carly Young and assistants Emily Bruchas and Megan Lee.

The orchestra for the show included Joel Walden, Chris Glass, Joey Telli, Michael Kerrigan, Stephanie Kerrigan, Ashley Montgomery, Clayton Hurdle and Lauren Slinkard. Mr. Schleimer also thanked JPII Choral Instructor Jj Ebelhar, JPII Band Instructor Alan Suska, Accompanist Rod Brounaugh and Choreographer Carly Young for their assistance with the production.

SUMMER ON THE HILL

Summer isn't sleepy at JPII. The campus will be buzzing through June as the Summer on the Hill summer camp program heats up. There will be 18 art and academic camps and 17 athletic camps, said Sharon Hager, the summer camp director.

The majority of the camps last five days and most last half a day, either 9 a.m. to noon or 12:30-3:30 p.m., Mrs. Hager said. A few camps, for example the boys and girls basketball camps, last all day.

This summer, one of the new camps will be an overnight basketball camp for fathers and their child that will be led by JPII Boys Basketball Coach Andy Bradshaw. The campers will arrive Friday evening, spend the night at the school and conclude Saturday. The goal, Mrs. Hager said, is to help teach the dads how to coach their children.

Another new camp – the All Fun Camp – is all about having fun. Campers age 8 to 14 will be able to enjoy flag football, soccer, basketball, badminton, capture the flag, floor hockey, croquet, waffle ball, water gun fights, Frisbee and miniature golf.

Athletic camps will include: athletic training and nutrition led by JPII trainer Jason Everhart, basketball, cheerleading, football, baseball, golf, soccer, boys lacrosse, volleyball, tennis, wrestling and strength and conditioning.

Arts camps will include: acting and improvisation, creative clay, guitar, singing, and discovering the world through art and artists.

Academic camps will include: creative writing, essay writing, science, math, a Hogwarts camp based on the Harry Potter books, the history of warfare through board games, and – a new camp this year – the history of warfare through dodgeball.

A complete description of each camp, with dates, times, ages, costs and other information, is available on the JPII website: www.jp2hs.org. Mrs. Hager said. Those interested should go to the "Campus Life" tab to find the link to the summer camp brochure and registration forms. Copies of the brochure are also available at the school.

Support
JPII
Athletics

For schedule
information
visit the
school
website:

www.jp2hs.org

MRS. DEL VALLE'S LOVE OF JP2 MADE SCHOOL A NATURAL CHOICE

Veronica Del Valle was a fresh graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro looking for a job in 2003, when she looked in the phone book and found Pope John Paul II High School. She said to herself, "That's the one."



Veronica Del Valle

Pope John Paul II became pope about the time she was born and he visited her hometown of Monterrey, Mexico, several times. Her interest in him started when she was still in elementary school and continued into adulthood. "I was in the fifth or sixth grade when I did a school project on his life. I still remember that," Mrs. Del Valle said. She also saw him at World Youth Day in Denver. "For me that was the most amazing man."

"He went through so much suffering, yet he always had this sparkle in his eye," Mrs. Del Valle said. "And I know he always loved Mexico. He loved Mexico."

So when she had the opportunity to work at a school named in the pope's honor, she grabbed it. In the 2003-04 school year, one of the school's Spanish teachers was delayed in arriving in Hendersonville while she waited for approval of her visa. Mrs. Del Valle served as an interim teacher until the regular teacher arrived and then spent the rest of the year working part-time, doing a little bit of everything. The next school year, she was hired as a full-time Spanish teacher, a position she's held since.

Watching her students grow as people is one of the most rewarding things about teaching, Mrs. Del Valle said. "I've been teaching freshman. In that whole year, you see them change completely. You see them become the people they are

going to be. ... I just think it's a very rewarding job. It's never the same."

Athletics have also played an important role in her life. Her father coached American football at the university in Monterrey, one of the most prestigious schools in Latin America. As a child, she ice skated competitively for nine years and played goalie for her high school and university soccer teams. "I've been involved in sports my whole life."

At JP2 she was an assistant coach for the softball team for three years. When she started, she was new to softball, but she quickly grew to love it. "I know so much about that sport now I wish I would have played it," she said.

"I really enjoy being a coach," Mrs. Del Valle said. "It's a part of me."

Mrs. Del Valle has combined her love of sports with her desire to serve. "My mom was always so involved in helping. ... She was always doing so much for everybody, for the community. I always felt I wasn't doing enough. I'm so blessed with everything. I've got to give back in some way."

So for the third year in a row, she will run the Country Music Marathon and use the occasion to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Mrs. Del Valle runs for the Tennessee Chapter of Team in Training, which has members all over the country who run marathons to raise money for the charity. This year, she said, "I'm running for a student who has been battling leukemia most of his life." She is the Team in Training captain for this year's race.

The Country Music Marathon is April 25. As of April 4, she had raised \$2,015 toward her goal of \$3,000. "Kids come and they'll give me \$5," Mrs. Del Valle said. "For a kid in high school, that can be a lot. It's so flattering."

Mrs. Del Valle uses her website – <http://pages.teamintraining.org/tn/cmc09/vdelvalleyons> – to keep supporters up to date on her training progress and to accept donations. People also can make donations by sending her a check.

HAND IN HAND INSPIRES CHICAGO SCHOOL

When Elaine and Kevin Burke were looking for a Catholic high school in the Chicago area that would accept their son Ryan, who was born with Down Syndrome, they found inspiration – and an answer – in Hendersonville, Tenn.

Notre Dame High School in Niles, Ill., just outside Chicago, will launch a new program next fall for students with intellectual disabilities that will be modeled on the Hand in Hand Program at Pope John Paul II High School. Notre Dame will become the first Catholic high school in Illinois and one of only a handful across the country to offer a special education program.

"It's exciting that other schools are taking notice and realize they can serve this population," said Adrienne Parks, the director of the Hand in Hand Program. "This population deserves an opportunity to be in a Catholic school."

The Burke family was having trouble finding a Catholic high school that would accept Ryan. At the same time, the Burkes' oldest daughter Meghan, was a doctoral student in special education at Vanderbilt University. She also was tutoring Jeanne Gavigan, one of the first students in the Hand in Hand program.

Meghan Burke thought something like the Hand in Hand program would be great for her brother and encouraged her parents to come to Tennessee to see it. "We weren't sure what we'd find," Kevin Burke said. "We were cautiously hopeful."

During their day at JP2, he added, several things stood out: everyone at the school, including the headmaster, the faculty, the students in the program, and the rest of the student body were energetic and committed to the success of the program. "This was a very open program with inclusion to the full extent



Adrienne Parks, left, director of the Hand in Hand Program, works with freshman Danielle Ritter. In the background, are the program's other students, Rachel Pearson and Sean Druffel.

a child could achieve, which is what we were after."

The Burkes returned home and asked Notre Dame Principal Dan Tully and Father Raymond Klees, the school's executive vice president, to visit JP2. The day they spent at JP2 convinced them, Mr. Tully said. "It was just remarkable how much of an impact the program had on the whole school, not just the five students in the program," Mr. Tully said.

"We are very flattered that other dioceses have recognized the great work that Adrienne has done," JP2 Headmaster Faustin Weber said. "We're very proud of the program, and very proud of our students." The program currently has three students enrolled, and still has room for one or two more students for next year, Mr. Weber said.

GERMAN STUDENTS FIND HOME AT JP2

The Christian Youth Exchange has built a bridge from Germany all the way to Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville. Through the program four or five German students spend a year in the United States as JP2 seniors and living with a host family.

"They participate in every way, shape and form in the life of that family," Pat Weaver, Director of Advancement and Admissions at JP2, said of the German exchange students.

The program is in its fourth year at JP2, and so far 13 German students have come to JP2. This year, there are five students from Germany in the senior class: Philip Horsthemke, Yvonne Wulfers, Arielle Deitermann, Max Mense and Chris Thale. "They've been successful students every year," fully participating in the activities of the school

inside the classroom and outside, Mr. Weaver said of the German students.

JP2 is looking for host families for next school year. Martin Schulz coordinates the Christian Youth Exchange in the United States. He interviews and selects the exchange students, who come primarily from the area of Munster, Germany. They summer before they arrive in the United States, the students study the English language and American culture to prepare for their year abroad.

The cost of tuition, fees, books, uniforms and allowance are the responsibility of the German families. And host families don't have to have a student enrolled at JP2, Mr. Weaver said. Families interested in being a host family should contact Mr. Weaver at 822-2375.



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'HELLO, DOLLY'

SUMMER CAMPS

VERONICA
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Admissions Office

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