



Lacrosse coach named national team assistant

JPII girls lacrosse coach Meghan Clark has been named an assistant coach to the United States U-19 National Team. Coach Clark is in her first year coaching at Pope John Paul II. She will be one of three coaches that lead the U.S. team in the World Cup in Hanover, Germany, in August of 2011. Ms. Clark was an All-American at James Madison University and played on the U.S. Developmental Team.

GRIFFITH MAKES SMOOTH TRANSITION TO JPII

Andrew Griffith, in his first year at JPII as an English teacher, is trying to mold his students into critical readers and analytical writers. "My focus is to help build analytical skills through the course material."



Andrew Griffith

Students improve, he said, by adopting the habits of strong intellectuals. He tries to show them how strong arguments are put together. "I would like students to see themselves as writers when they leave the class," Mr. Griffith said. "Students think writing is a skill people are born with. But it can be a learned skill."

Mr. Griffith has a busy schedule, teaching all levels of 11th grade English, which is American literature, and AP English. "I like the intellectual challenge of teaching English," Mr. Griffith said. "English helps them learn abstract ideas."

"I like the AP (English) class because it allows me to use all my interests in history, English and philosophy," he added.

Mr. Griffith studied those subjects as an undergraduate student at Duke University and as a doctoral candidate at Johns Hopkins University. His first brush with teaching came while he was student at Duke, teaching is a summer program for middle school students in the public schools of Washington, D.C., his hometown.

After graduating from Duke, Mr. Griffith taught in the Dominican Republic. He returned to the United States to pursue a doctorate in philosophy at Johns Hopkins and again found himself in the classroom as part of his teaching fellowship. But Mr. Griffith realized he preferred teaching

in high school to college.

"I missed the daily interaction with students," he said. "I'm actually able to teach students more ... at the high school level than the collegiate level" where he would see students only two or three times a week and only for a semester. In high school, teachers see their students daily and over the entire course of the year.

Mr. Griffith taught several years at St. Andrew Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., a suburb of Washington, before he and his wife, Elizabeth, moved to Nashville so she could pursue her doctorate in philosophy at Vanderbilt University.

Next year, Mr. Griffith and his wife hope to start a program that will bring philosophy professors and students at Vanderbilt to JPII to teach seminars for the students there.

It's been a smooth transition to JPII, Mr. Griffith said. "It's a school that values intellectual rigor and that's really important to me," he said.

Mr. Griffith also is active outside the classroom, serving as one of the faculty advisors for the Youth in Government program and as the assistant coach for the boys' lacrosse team.

"I've played lacrosse since I was in first grade," said Mr. Griffith. He played for the school team while attending a small high school in the Washington area, one of the country's hotbeds for lacrosse. Later, he tried out as a walk-on for the team at Duke, a perennial national powerhouse in lacrosse. Mr. Griffith eventually gave up playing because of an injury to his shoulder.

"Lacrosse is a great mix of a lot of sports," Mr. Griffith said, with the speed of basketball and the physicality of football. "It's high scoring, it moves quickly, fluidly and is physical as well."

and concession sales, is used to support a variety of programs at JPII. Among items the Parent Association has supported in the past are: paying the annual \$4,000 subscription price for the computer databases for the library; a portable scoreboard for the lacrosse teams; money for scholarships for Model UN conferences; flatbed scanners for the College Counseling Office; digital recorders and readers for the Foreign Language Department; books and materials for the Latin program; risers for the Choral Department, and others.

Mrs. MacConnell said she hopes more people will participate in the future.



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SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

JPII will once again open its campus to between 375 and 400 young students participating in a wide variety of summer camps in the arts, academics and athletics.

The half-day camps typically cost \$125 for the week and the full-day camps \$175, said Sharon Hager, the summer camp director. Half-day camps last from 9 a.m. to noon or 12:30-3:30 p.m. Full day camps last from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Students can bring lunch or buy their lunch from our dining hall, The Roundtable.

There are several new camps this year including an illustration camp, a wheel and pottery camp, an animal sculpture camp, a Princess and Fairy Foods cooking camp and a Princess Spa Class, both geared for younger girls, two girls lacrosse camps, one for younger kids and another for older kids, a soccer camp for kids ages 6 to 9, and two strength and conditioning camps, one for middle school students and one for high school students, Mrs. Hager said.

Registration for all the camps is open now. The brochure detailing all the camps and the registration form are available on the school's website: www.jp2hs.org. Click on the link for the 2010 Summer Camp under Quick Links on the left side of the home page. There is no online registration, so those interested should print out the registration form and mail it or drop it off at the school, Mrs. Hager said.

Contact Mrs. Hager at Sharon.Hager@jp2hs.org for more information.

BAECHLE NAMED MISS BASKETBALL

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Baechle's Miss Basketball award puts her in rarified company in JPII's short athletic history. The only other JPII athlete to receive a similar honor was Golden Tate who was named Tennessee Mr. Football for Division II before he went on to star as a wide receiver at Notre Dame.

Besides the Miss Basketball award, Baechle was named to the All-Tournament team and, along with senior teammate Jalissa Mosby, to the All-Region team. Baechle also has been a highly decorated soccer star at JPII. She hopes to continue her basketball career in college, Baechle said. "I love the game," she said.

Baechle also has fond memories of her basketball career at JPII, where she played in the state tournament as a freshman and a senior. "I've love the girls," Baechle said of her teammates. "We've always been really close. It's always been like a family."

Baechle led the Knights to a 20-7 record on the season and the team's fourth appearance in the state tournament in eight years. In the semifinals, the Knights lost to Briarcrest 54-45, despite Baechle's 20 points and 11 rebounds, both highs for the game.



APRIL 2010

Headmaster Faustin Weber ■ 615-822-2375 ■ www.jp2hs.org

JPII HOSTS POPE'S BIOGRAPHER, UNVEILS SKI JACKET DISPLAY

George Weigel, one of the most pre-eminent biographers of Pope John Paul II, came to Pope John Paul II High School to launch the school's new Distinguished Lecturer series on Tuesday, March 9.

Weigel's talk about the enduring accomplishments and legacy of the late pope was part of the school's commemoration of the fifth anniversary of his death on April 2, 2005.

"It seems difficult to believe but we are one month away from the fifth anniversary of the death of John Paul II," said Faustin Weber, headmaster of JPII High School.

Besides the talk by Weigel, who wrote "Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II," the school also used the occasion to unveil outside its chapel a display featuring a ski jacket once owned by the pope and information about his life as a sportsman and outdoorsman and as a scholar and theologian. "We have to remember ... and celebrate the life of John Paul II," Mr. Weber said.

The ski jacket was given to the school by Bishop Edward Kmiec,



A ski jacket once owned by Pope John Paul II is now on display outside the chapel of JPII High School.

who was the bishop of Nashville when the school was built. He had asked Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, John Paul II's former personal secretary, for an item that belonged to the pope that he could give the school. The jacket was been under lock and key for several years before the display was built.

PAIGE BAECHLE NAMED MISS BASKETBALL

Paige Baechle experienced the highs and lows of sports, all in the same weekend.

After the Pope John Paul II High School senior saw her high school basketball career end in the semifinals of the Division II-AA girls basketball state tournament on March 5 at Lipscomb University, Baechle was named Tennessee Miss Basketball, honoring her as the best player in the large, private school division, the next day.

"That's the highest honor she could ever get," said Julie Rollins, Baechle's coach at JPII.

Baechle was one of three finalists for the award, along with Marie Carpenter of Ensworth and Taylor Reece of Brentwood Academy. As she stood on the court at Lipscomb's Allen Arena listening to the accomplishments of the other two finalists, she thought there's was no chance

Carpenter or Reece wouldn't be tapped for the honor. Instead, it was her named called.

"I was very surprised to win Miss Basketball," said Baechle, whose family are parishioners at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville.

Baechle played on the JPII varsity all four years of her high school career, passing the 1,000-point mark during her senior year. She also scored 40 points in a game against Harpeth Hall this year, without playing in the fourth quarter, Rollins noted.

"What makes her good is her quick release on her shot. She can get a shot off so quickly," Rollins said. "She has very fast feet. She's so quick, it's hard for defenders to get a body on her to stop her."

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PUBLIX FUNDRAISER

ANDREW GRIFFITH

SUMMER CAMP

Admissions Office
615-822-2375
info@jp2hs.org

SHOPPING AT PUBLIX BENEFITS JPII

All it takes to help Pope John Paul II High School is to swipe a Publix Partners card across the scanner while grocery shopping at Publix Super Markets. For every \$37,500 spent by participating families, Publix donates \$250 to the JPII High School Parent Association.

"If you're going to shop at Publix, keep that with you and scan it every time. And it's free money," said Wendy MacConnell, president of the Parent Association. "It's a really easy thing to do."

The cards for the program, which can be used

at stores in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, are available at the school, Our Lady of the Lake Church or a Publix near you, Mrs. MacConnell said. The grocery store chain sends a check to JPII four times a year. "So far we've gotten \$981 and we're expecting another" check, Mrs. MacConnell said. Since JPII joined the Publix Partners program in the summer of 2002, it has earned \$3,540.

All of the money the Parent Association raises through the Publix card program and other fundraisers, such as revenue from the Armory

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while continuing to play D-I soccer at Belmont University.

Emily Mills has been selected as a freshman to be a starter on the newly formed D-II lacrosse team at Centre College. She received a 3.6 grade average her first semester. She also is a team leader for Teens for Christ in the Diocese of Lexington, Ky., at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

Natalie Beatty, right, starred in "Sound of Dogs," a full-length feature film which debuted Dec. 21 at the Belcourt Theatre. The movie was directed by Warren Smythe and Alex Cline and was filmed in Hendersonville over the summer. You can see the trailer at www.soundofdogs.com.

Taylor Harrison was recognized on the fall 2009 SCAC All-sportsmanship Teams for men's soccer. Taylor attends Millsaps College.

Bryan Adcock is attending Maryville College where he is taking International Business-Japanese.

Kayce Resha continues her academic excellence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Juan Alonzo, right, just finished recording a classical guitar album entitled "La Raiz." This album features 11 pieces from composers like Leo Brouwer, Astor Piazzolla, Francisco Tarrega, Rodrigo Riera and Antonio Lauro. "La Raiz" is a very personal selection of Juan's roots as a classical player and will be released in the near future.

Ryan Davis, left, is now at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, where he's majoring in chemical engineering. Due to the AP coursework opportunities at JPII, Ryan was able to place out of his entire freshman year. He is now a junior there and just won the Noel E. Moore award.



Class of 2009

Justin Crawley made the Dean's List for his first pre-med semester

JPII CHORUSES RAISE VOICES IN ST. PETER'S BASILICA

Thirty-five students at Pope John Paul II High School combined sight-seeing with singing during a spring break trip to Italy for a performance tour.

"I think the highlight for all of us was singing a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, said Jj Ebelhar, the choral director at JPII. Singing at St. Peter's was one of three performances by the school's women's and chamber choirs during the week-long stay in Italy. The Mass was "a little unnerving because you know you don't want to mess up," Mrs Ebelhar said.

The choruses also sang at the Church of Sant'Eustachio in Rome and the Church of Santa Margherita in Florence during the trip, which was organized by Music Celebration Inc. as part of the 2010 American Celebration of Music in Italy.

JPII choruses sang at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican during a performance tour of Italy over spring break.



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of South Carolina since his freshman year. He was also accepted into the Moore School of International Business undergraduate program, ranked number one by U.S. News & World Report for the 12th year.

Jessie Deffendall is studying Spanish Culture, Spanish Literature and the Economics of Tourism in Merida, Mexico, as her Centre College term abroad. She is living with a Mexican host family, and she attends the local university with 15 of her classmates from Centre. She will graduate from Centre in May 2011.

Class of 2008

Christopher Hooper, a sophomore at the University of Richmond, will be presenting a poster entitled "Evidence for a Symbiotic Relationship Between Bacteria and the Octocoral *Leptogorgia Virgulata*" on April 16, during the Student Research Symposium held at the University of Richmond. Christopher is a biology major and has done undergraduate research during the summer and academic year.

Jessica Gad is a sophomore at Western Kentucky University. She made the Dean's list last semester. Jessica is pictured at right with her best friend and roommate, Morgan Crenshaw, a 2008 graduate of Station Camp High School.

Tim McGrath is a sophomore at Xavier University in Cincinnati. He is majoring in occupational therapy. He has been a RA this semester.

Paige Meadows has been accepted into the University of Tennessee Nursing School.

Jeff Bloom, a theater major at Centre College, is directing his first play in which fellow JPII graduate **Emily Mills** will have a part.

Allyson Hammer made Dean's List all semesters at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga

Will Dodd is in his fourth semester at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is currently majoring in philosophy with a theology minor, however he is discerning the call to enter into the Pre-Theologate program. The program involves discernment and formation for the priesthood and religious life.



Class of 2005

Mike Isaacson received a degree in business administration with a concentration in management from Middle Tennessee State University.

Kenny Carver graduated Dec. 13, 2009, from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville with a bachelor of science degree in Bio Chemistry/Molecular Biology. He was accepted into the Belmont University School of Pharmacy, Class of 2014, beginning studies in August 2010. Kenny is currently employed as a Pharmacy Tech at Fort Sanders Medical Center, Knoxville.

Crystal Johnstone, right, is the proud mother of 11-month-old Parker, a future JPII student.

Erica Tachoir, a film graduate from New York University, recently wrote and directed a film, "Too Sunny for Santa." The film has been chosen as an "Official Selection of the Nashville Film Festival" and will have its Tennessee premiere at 7 p.m. April 15, the opening night of the festival. It also will be shown at 8:30 p.m. April 18. An official schedule will be announced at www.nashvillefilmfestival.org. This is a short film telling a heart-warming story of a family dealing with terminal cancer. It was filmed in Hendersonville last summer. You can see a trailer of the movie on www.imdb.com. The movie just won a cinematography award at the NY Fusion Festival and also will be part of the NY City First Run Film Festival, and hopefully many others. Erica will be coming to JPII on Tuesday April 20, to talk about filmmaking with Mr. Schleimer's theater class and other interested students.

Olivia Walker graduated cum laude from The University of Dayton in May 2009 with a double major in political science and philosophy. She is currently in her first year of law school at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. This summer she will be working as an environmental law clerk for the Ohio Department of Commerce.

Class of 2006

Airman 1st Class **Matthew Blake Mayo** is at Misawa Air Force Base, Japan. He will be there for two years. He can be reached on Facebook.

Allison Erkman was accepted to the University of Tennessee Veterinary School class of 2014.

Class of 2007

Alex Finaly stopped in Dubai U.A.E. for a couple of days on his way to Osaka Japan, for his study abroad semester at Kansai University. He has also been on the Dean's List of the Honors College at the University

JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

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

St. Ann School

The key to making new friends and finding your niche at Pope John Paul II High School is getting involved in some of the school's numerous extra-curricular activities, said Anna Buchanan and Mitchell Nelson, two JPII freshmen from St. Ann School in Nashville.

"It helps a lot in meeting new people if you're involved in activities," said Anna. "Definitely," chimed in Mitchell.

"I'm the only girl from my school here," said Anna, so participating in activities was an important way to widen her circle of friends. She is a cheerleader and participated in Model UN at JPII. It was nice to walk into a classroom early in the school year and see a familiar face from cheerleading, Anna said.

Mitchell was elected to the school's Student Senate by the other members of his advisory group and he played for JPII's undefeated freshman football team last fall. "I liked football a lot," said Mitchell who played free safety and on the special teams. "It was a lot of fun."

Mitchell followed his older brother Michael, a senior this year, to JPII. Anna, too, followed older siblings to JPII. Her brother Winder Buchanan was a member of the very first freshman class at JPII and graduated in 2006. Her sister Francesca graduated from JPII in 2008. "They liked the sports" at JPII, Anna said of her brother and sister. "They had fun."

Anna assured prospective JPII students that they should look forward to having more friends once they show up. "That's the best part, I would say."

Mitchell's advice to prospective students was similar. "I would say get into a club so you can meet friends from the get go."

JPII people ... Anna Buchanan and Mitchell Nelson!



Anna Buchanan



Mitchell Nelson

View Points

JPII students shine at Youth-in-Government Conference

Thirty-three students from JPII led the way at Tennessee's Youth in Government legislative conference at the Capitol in Nashville on March 4-7.

JPII's Aaron Weber served as governor, an office he earned through election in 2009. Later this month he will meet with Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen. In addition, Weber and JPII's Jeremy Wilson were selected for the YMCA Conference on National Affairs in Blue Ridge, N.C., with representatives from 30 states. Jordan Julow will serve as an alternate at that conference.

Other JPII students serving as officers were: Jeremy Wilson, Speaker Pro-Tem; Gala Cude, Chief Engrossing Clerk; Greg Seals, Chief Clerk-Red Senate; and Shiksha Mahtani, Chief Clerk-Red House. Elected as officers for the 2011 YIG Conference were Tommy Joe Bednar, Speaker Pro-Tem-Red Senate, and Ally Harpootian, Chief Clerk-Red Senate.

JPII students also walked away with several awards. Tommy Joe Bednar of the Red Senate and Hailey Cleek of the Blue Senate were both selected as Outstanding Statesmen. In the Supreme Court, Laura Walden and Emily Bruchas were named Outstanding Attorneys in the Novice Division. In addition, Hailey Cleek, Kelsey Smith and Emily Garretson won Best Bill in the Blue House for a law requiring those applying for public assistance to undergo drug testing. In all, nine of 11 bills presented by JPII students advanced to the floor of respective houses, and two bills were signed by Gov. Weber: one by Emily Peel, Lexie Walden and Simran Mahtani to limit malpractice awards in lawsuits, and another - the Go Green Act - by Tanner Taddeo and Tim Clavin.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JPII GRADUATION
SUNDAY, MAY 16
1 P.M.
OPRY HOUSE

CALL 822-2375
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Host a German student

Pope John Paul II High School and the Christian Youth Exchange are looking for families to host five German Students for the 2010-2011 school year. Host families provide room and board, but the cost of tuition, fees, books, uniforms and allowance is the responsibility of the German families.

Over the past five years, 18 German students and host families have participated at JPII. Every German student is fluent in English and will attend JPII as a member of the senior class.

For more information, contact Pat Weaver at pat.weaver@jp2hs.org or call (615) 590-6013.