



CALIFORNIA EDUCATOR TAPPED TO BE NEW HEADMASTER

Michael Deely, the principal at Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego, Calif., has accepted the position of headmaster at Pope John Paul II High School, Bishop David Choby has announced.

"We had excellent candidates apply for the position, and each of the finalists had his or her own strengths," Bishop Choby said. "Mr. Deely stood out among the many applicants. His commitment to the faith, his experience, and his personality make him the best person to lead the school into the future."

Mr. Deely will become JPPI's third headmaster when he assumes his responsibilities on July 1, 2015. He succeeds Faustin Weber, who announced last May that he planned to step down at the end of the 2014-15 school year so he could move closer to family.

Mr. Deely received a letter about the JPPI position from Carney, Sandoe and Associates, the search firm hired by JPPI to assist with finding a new headmaster, he said. "I read about the school. I felt like the Holy Spirit hit me," said Mr. Deely. When he showed the letter to his wife Susan, he said, her response was "Wow."

"The more I found out about (JPPI), it was phenomenal," Mr. Deely added.

"I've been looking for a new challenge and opportunity," Mr. Deely said. He and his wife, who also is a Catholic educator, "were looking for a place where we could raise our kids," Clare, 6, and Atticus, 3.

Mr. Deely, 44, has been principal at Cathedral Catholic, which has a president and principal, since 2006. As principal, he has been involved in all aspects of the operation of Cathedral Catholic, a co-ed school with an enrollment of about 1,700 students.

Cathedral Catholic was originally known as the University of



Michael Deely, the principal of Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego, Calif., will become the third headmaster in the history of Pope John Paul II High School when he assumes his new duties next July.

San Diego High School, but was renamed when the school was moved to a new campus in northern San Diego County in 2005.

Mr. Deely began his career as an educator in 1994 when he served as a history and theology teacher, campus minister and a football coach at University of San Diego High, his alma mater. In 2001, he left to become the principal of St. Charles Borromeo Academy, a kindergarten through eighth grade

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A KNIGHT'S TALE



JPPI ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



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CALIFORNIAN TAPPED TO BE NEW HEADMASTER

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school in San Diego, a position he held until 2006.

Mr. Deely holds an M.A. in History with a Latin American emphasis from the University of San Diego, and a California Clear Credential certificate in Social Studies from the United States International University. He attended St. Patrick's Seminary where he completed 43 units toward a master's degree in theology. He received a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in philosophy from the University of San Diego.

"Mike Deely is the ideal candidate to lead JPII as our new headmaster," said John Sooker, chair of the JPII Board of Trustees. "Mike's strong Catholic identity coupled with his outstanding administrative and leadership competencies position him well to be very successful at JPII. The entire Board looks forward to working with Mike. His references and their recommendations were outstanding."

Bishop Choby selected Mr. Deely after an extensive national search led by a search committee chaired by JPII board vice president Dr. Jennifer Uhl. The committee included Sooker, board members Father Eric Fowlkes, Sharon Edwards, Stephen Cook and Dr. Joe Fox, parent and former board member Bill Wood, faculty members, Karen Phillips, Andrew Griffith, Jennifer Dye and Brad Peper, diocesan Superintendent of Schools Dr. Therese Williams, and Bill Whalen, chief financial officer of the Diocese of Nashville.

The committee received about 100 applications of the position, Dr. Uhl said, and Carney Sandoe recommended about 25 for the committee to consider further. The committee conducted interviews via Skype with several of the applicants, including Mr. Deely. "That interview ... is what got the committee excited," Dr. Uhl said. "He was very well prepared."

Mr. Deely was one of four candidates invited to JPII for a more formal interview with the committee, faculty members and parents, Dr. Uhl said. "His experience, his charisma, his expectations," all impressed the search committee, she said. "He has the energy the school needs at this point."

The committee was looking for someone who could build relationships both within the school structure and with people in the broader community, Dr. Uhl said, "someone capable of telling the story of JPII."

One of Mr. Deely's first tasks as headmaster will be leading the school through the preparation of a new strategic plan beginning in 2016. He called working on a strategic plan a "perfect way" to learn about the school, "to learn what they need and what they need from me."

Mr. Deely is already impressed with JPII. "I've dealt with a lot of schools," he said. "To be that young and have accomplished that much is really impressive."

Mr. Deely plans to visit JPII after the start of the new year to meet with students, faculty, staff and parents. He and his family plan on moving to Tennessee in June, he said.

BIG CROWD ATTENDS GRANDPARENT BREAKFAST

This year more than 500 grandparents and students attended the annual Thanksgiving Grandparent Breakfast. The event featured performances by the school's chamber orchestra and chamber choir. Senior Tyler Dorr gave a wonderful speech about his grandparents and how big of an impact they have made on his life. Our grandparent speakers this year were Al and Janet Agnew, along with their two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Grace Wood. The Agnews also have two grandchildren who are alumni of JPII. Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended this year's breakfast.



Fund For Excellence reaching for record goal

The goal for this year's Fund for Excellence campaign is to raise \$440,000 to help pay for the operation costs of the school beyond what is covered by tuition and fees.

The goal, which is the highest ever for JPII, includes proceeds not only from the annual giving campaign but also from the annual Gala to be held next February and the Hand In Hand program fundraising.

The chairs for the Fund For Excellence this year are Brandi and Chris Locke.

The annual Gala will be held on Feb. 7, 2015, at the Bluegrass Country Club in Hendersonville.

The school is looking for corporate sponsors and auction items, such as works of art, tickets to sporting events, or vacation trips.

For more information about sponsorships or donating auction items, contact the school at (615) 822-2375.

GEISINGER NAMED HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Pope John Paul II High School has named Justin Geisinger, the current offensive coordinator for the school's football team, as head coach.

Coach Geisinger will replace Jerry Joslin, who resigned to become the head coach at Goodpasture Christian School.

"I've enjoyed my time at JPII and my involvement with the players and coaches," said Coach Joslin, who led JPII's football program for three years after previously serving as the head coach at Gallatin High School and Cookeville High School. "I wish the school, the players, the teachers and the football program my best going forward."

Coach Joslin will leave JPII over the Christmas break to assume his new responsibilities at Goodpasture. In his three seasons, Coach Joslin led the Knights to a 10-23 record in the tough Division II-AA. Geisinger's appointment will be effective Jan. 1, 2015.

"We're grateful for the work Jerry has done," said JPII Headmaster Faustin Weber. "He made playing football at JPII fun again for our kids, and our numbers here have increased as a result. Part of the idea when we hired him was to give some of the younger coaches on our staff a chance to grow in their responsibilities, and he's allowed for that, making this internal hire possible. I respect the way both he and Goodpasture have kept me informed of their intentions, and I wish them both well."

Coach Geisinger, known by his players and students as "Coach Geis," will become the fourth head football coach in JPII's history.

"When I first accepted the opportunity to come to JPII to start a strength and conditioning program and coach football four years ago, I knew this was a school that fit what I believed in as a student-athlete and coach," Coach Geisinger said. "The excellence and opportunity this school provides our kids is second to none and I knew this community was one I wanted to be part of."

"I have been able to grow as a teacher, coach and mentor at JPII alongside some great teachers and coaches, and I am excited about the opportunity to lead a great group of young men into the future," he added.

"Coach Geisinger has led our student-athletes to huge gains in the weight room as head strength coach and is well respected as a coach in our football program," JPII Athletic Director Alan Mila said. "In just his first season as offensive coordinator this year, we improved by 800 yards on offense and almost doubled our point production. He's been successful in whatever he's done in his life. We're excited about what he can bring us and pleased he's accepted our offer."

Coach Geisinger grew up in Pittsburgh, Pa., and received a football scholarship at Vanderbilt University, where he graduated with honors and was an Academic All-American. He majored in business with a track in Health and Human Services and began his master's degree during his last year as a Commodore.



Photo courtesy of Rick Musacchio/Tennessee Register
Justin Geisinger calls a play for the Knights in their last game of the regular season against White House. Coach Geis, as he is known by his players and students, has been promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach of the JPII football team, replacing Jerry Joslin who resigned to become head coach at Goodpasture Christian School.

On the football field, Coach Geisinger was a four-year starter at left tackle and a two-year team captain. He earned All-Southeastern Conference honors as a senior and was an Outland Trophy candidate as the nation's top lineman. He also set the all-time Vanderbilt bench press record at 600 pounds, and was named a Strength and Conditioning All-American by the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

In 2005, Coach Geisinger began his career in the National Football League, selected in the sixth round by the Buffalo Bills. He played from 2005-2009 as an offensive lineman for the Bills, Titans (2006), Redskins (2007-09), and Carolina Panthers (2009) before a knee injury ended his playing career.

His experience and passion in the weight room landed him at the helm of the JPII strength and fitness program in January 2010, and he has been at the school ever since. He was the offensive line coach from 2010-2013 before being promoted to offensive coordinator for the 2014 season.

STUDENTS SHINE AT CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Photos courtesy of Rick Musacchio

JP II instrumental music instructor Jordan Tupper, left, introduces the Jazz Ensemble during the annual Christmas Concert, which also featured the chamber orchestra, drum line and beginning guitar class. Senior Jacob Telli, above, plays a solo during the concert.

MODEL UN TEAM COMPETES IN FOUR FALL CONFERENCES

For the first time in its history, the Pope John Paul II High School Model United Nations Team participated in four conferences in a single semester, including the third annual Pope John Paul II High School Model UN Conference that the team hosted on Sept. 20, the 11th annual Vanderbilt Model UN Conference on Oct. 24, the 17th Annual University of Dayton Model UN Conference on Nov. 14, and the 49th Annual Arkansas Model UN Conference on Nov. 21.

Between these four conferences, the team earned 38 awards, raising their 12-year total to 436 awards. At the JP II conference, the first for many of the team's new members, the team earned 12 awards. At the Vanderbilt conference Collins Brown received the conference's highest honor with a Best Delegate Award while Kieran Altenbern received an Outstanding Delegate Award and Miranda MacNaughton received an Honorable Mention Delegate Award. At the Dayton conference the team earned six awards, the second highest of any team, including Best Position Paper Awards for Miranda MacNaughton, McCain Brown and Clare Steiner, Distinguished Delegate Awards for Collins Brown, Sam Garretson and Grant Gonzalez, and an Outstanding Delegate Award, the conference's highest honor, for Miranda MacNaughton.

This year's Arkansas conference was the largest ever with more than 425 students from 27 high schools in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Tennessee. The JP II team was led by Head Delegates AnMei Little (Bolivia), Malia Lane (Denmark), Olivia Balkon (Estonia), Miranda MacNaughton (Germany), Thomas Janes (India), Grant Gonzalez (Ireland), Jack Brau

(Netherlands), Grace Adcox (Panama), and Emma Horton (Venezuela).

The team earned 17 awards, the second most awards earned among all schools at the conference. JP II received six awards for Best Position Papers, more than any other school: Germany (Miranda MacNaughton, Collins Brown, Elise Hackett, Oliver Antone), India (Savannah Lewis, Remilia Li, Annette Whitaker, Virginia Campbell, Thomas Janes), Ireland (Sydney Sabash, Nathaniel Werner, Grant Gonzalez, Sam Kniery, Kieran Altenbern), Netherlands (Mercedes Smith, Jack Brau, Jake Motz, Chris Stinnett), Panama (Cate Kroeger, Jackie Whitling, Grace Adcox, Leah Mariscotes), and Venezuela (Jackson Craven, Alex Delmotte, Nalys Alexander, Emma Horton).

Collins Brown and Elise Hackett were selected by their fellow committee members for the prestigious award of Rappoteur or Delegate's Choice Award. Collins Brown earned an Outstanding Delegate Award; Olivia Snell, Miranda MacNaughton, Elise Hackett, Thomas Janes, Grace Adcox, Grant Gonzalez and Kieran Altenbern received Outstanding Delegate Honorable Mention Awards; Miranda MacNaughton, Collins Brown, Elise Hackett and Oliver Antone, representing Germany, earned the Best Delegation Plaque, the conference's highest honor. This marked the fifth time that the JP II team has won the Best Delegation Plaque in the last six years.

JP II is aiming for a national ranking from BestDelegate.com for the third consecutive year. This year 116 students, or 20 percent of the JP II student body, have participated in Model UN, including 76 students new to the program.

GIRLS BOWLING TEAM HEADED TO STATE TOURNAMENT

The JPII girls bowling team is looking to cap off a fantastic regular season with a strong showing in the upcoming state tournament. The girls team finished the regular season with a 14-1 record and a second place finish in the district. As one of the top three finishers in the district, they automatically qualified for the state tournament, explained Head Coach John Reding.

“They had a really good season,” said Coach Reding, who knows he’ll have two bowlers qualify for the individual state tournament and is hoping for a third.

Team members include seniors Ana Reding, Alyssa Wyman and Ally Johnson, junior Olivia Zimmer, sophomores Carlee Campbell, Sarah Gould, Brenda Hernandez and Katherine Nguyen, and freshmen Leah Mariscotes and Megan George.

“Ana Reding and Carlee Campbell have done really well,” with averages of 154.59 and 152.14, respectively, Coach Reding said. Alyssa Wyman has a 133.48 average and has a chance also to qualify for the individual state tournament, he added.

The team improved on its performance last year when it qualified for the state tournament after winning three district matches and a regional match, Coach Reding said. This year, “Ana’s bowling better, Carlee’s bowling better, Alyssa is better,” and some of the new team members have also bowled well, including Sarah Gould, who “is doing well for us this year,” he said. “All the girls have. They really have done a nice job.”

The boys team will have to win their way into the state tournament after finishing outside the top three spots in the district. They must win three district matches to be played Jan. 8-10, and then a regional match the following week. The state tournament will be held in Smyrna on Jan. 22.

The boys team members this year include: seniors Sean Reding, Jarrett Brooks, Tyler Dorr, Jake Easter, Hans Richter, Avery Glenn, sophomore Matthew Staley, and freshmen Cade Smith and Mitchell Dorr. Scoring leaders are Sean Reding, Jarrett Brooks and Tyler Dorr with averages of 151, 147 and 133, respectively.

Helping Coach Reding this year as assistant coaches are Sean Manyen and Allison Thompson.

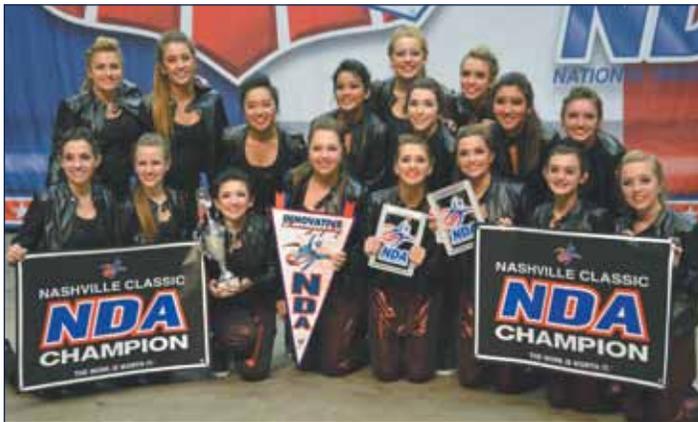
WRESTLERS PLACE AT KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC TOURNAMENT

Pope John Paul II High School senior wrestlers Jacob Telli and Daniel Edwards finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in their weight classes at the Knoxville Catholic Invitational Tournament held Dec. 5-6 in Knoxville. “That was a tough tournament,” said Wes Smith, the new wrestling coach at JPII who has coached the Hendersonville Generals youth wrestling program for more than a decade. “There was great competition with state champions and region champions” in the field of wrestlers, he said. “That makes for great quality wrestling.”

Edwards finished fifth in the 145-pound weight class, going 5-2 in the tournament, including two pins. Telli finished the tournament with four wins and two losses, including one pin and a major decision.

In the team standings, JPII, with only seven wrestlers competing, finished with 41 points and in a tie for 18th place out of 26 teams. Freshman Joseph Cole earned the first win of his wrestling career at the tournament with a pin.

Coach Smith welcomes new wrestlers at any time. The team practices in the wrestling gymnasium from 4 to 5:30 p.m. every day after school.



KNIGHT STARS CROWNED GRAND CHAMPION

Congratulations to the school’s dance team, the JPII Knight Stars, which won first place in Pom, first place in Hip-Hop, first place in Innovative Choreography and Overall Grand Champion at the National Dance Association competition on Sunday, Nov. 16. Team members include: (front row, from left) Taryn Wallace, Caroline Leonard, Abby Sturgill, Lauren Gierla, Macayla Dowdy, Libby Reese, Morgan Locke and Abigail Solarz; (back row) Ashley Hayes, Mallory Davanport, Alyssa Rentuza, Alexis Williams, Ava Evans, Allie Page, Carson Burwell, Amanda Kuban and Caroline Singleton.

SIX STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR REGIONAL ART EXHIBITION

Six JPII students, Reygan Putman, Libby Reese, Allison Fowler, Angelina Hare, Alyssa Foglin and Caitlin Barnes, have works that were accepted to the Middle Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition.

Reygan Putman had two pieces accepted, “Infestation” in the painting category, and “Untitled (Rabbit)” in the drawing category. Two students had pieces accepted in the sculpture category, Libby Reese’s piece “Multiple Storyline”

and Allison Fowler’s piece “Golden Feather.” Angelina Hare’s piece “Hope” was accepted in the mixed media category. Alyssa Fogolin’s piece “Broken” and Caitlin Barnes’ piece “Spontaniety” were both accepted in the photography category.

The reception and award presentation will be 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Belmont Mansion in Nashville.

MR. BAUNACH LOOKS TO COMBINE TEACHING, RESEARCH

John Baunach was a sophomore at Vanderbilt University still trying to figure out a major. He had been a good math student at St. Xavier High School in Louisville so he decided to give a quantum physics class a try. "It kicked my butt. I felt like a poet in a class of scientists, which I was," Mr. Baunach recalled. But while studying for an exam in the class one day, "It just clicked. There was a real a-ha moment," Mr. Baunach said. Having seen the beauty of physics, he decided, "I couldn't not do that anymore."

That started him on a path that led to Pope John Paul II High School this year where he is teaching four sections of advanced physics for freshmen and an AP Physics class for upperclassmen. "I really like this age group," Mr. Baunach said. For his freshman students, he said, the focus is teaching them to think scientifically and helping them transition into high school and their teenage years. "It is a really cool thing when I see eighth graders turn into freshmen."

One of the issues he's trying to address is getting more girls interested in science. According to the data, girls are typically ahead of boys when they are in the seventh and eighth grade, Mr. Baunach explained. But by the time they are sophomores in high school, that flips. Teaching freshman, he's right on the cusp of that switch, so he's looking for ways to build girls confidence in their ability to do science, he said.



John Baunach

Mr. Baunach graduated from Vanderbilt in 2010 with a major in physics and a minor in astronomy. After graduating, he got a part-time job teaching physics and astronomy at Ravenwood High School. He also decided to pursue a master's degree in health physics, with a concentration on the effects of radiation on the body. He has done research at NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia where scientists are investigating how much shielding is needed on spacecraft to protect astronauts from radiation during deep space travel, such as a trip to Mars, Mr. Baunach said. Mr. Baunach would like to balance his interests in teaching and research. He is interested in trying to establish a program that would allow high school science teachers to spend the summer months on a college campus conducting research. "It's important we keep developing ourselves."

Mr. Baunach is impressed with the faculty and the students at JPPII. "The thing about JPPII is that it feels like a collegiate campus. The faculty and the students are immersed in their subjects, and they're challenging each other daily on a level that's almost equal. I haven't run into a teacher that refuses to be challenged on their ideas by a bright student, and I haven't met a student that doesn't understand that they're allowed to push back on something they don't agree with. This free flow of ideas is one of the coolest things about this place."

When Mr. Baunach isn't busy focusing on science, he's usually singing. While at Vanderbilt, he and a friend started a cappella singing group called the Melodores. "I'm an introvert. Performing is something every introvert should have to do. You get through it and you realize everyone else is as nervous as you are," he said. "It definitely prepared me for teaching."

MASQUERADE KNIGHT

Pope John Paul II High School
2015 Gala & Auction

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Honoring
Dr. Carolyn Baker

6:00 P.M. Preview

7:30 P.M. Dinner

Live Auction ~ Dancing

Bluegrass Yacht & Country Club
550 Johnny Cash Parkway
Hendersonville, Tennessee 37075

