

SENIORS RUSHING TOWARD GRADUATION

The high school careers of JPPI's seniors are rushing to a close with a host of activities leading up to graduation.

The events began with Senior Surf's Up Day on April 23, when the Class of 2015 were excused from classes for a day of fun in the sun.

Next up was the annual Senior Assembly on May 1 when the seniors put on a show poking gentle fun at their classmates and favorite teachers with a variety of skits and video clips.

On Wednesday, May 13, Senior Honors Night will recognize the seniors for all their academic achievements. The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Graduation weekend will keep the seniors and their families busy. On Friday, May 15, the seniors will have graduation practice at 1 p.m., followed by one of the highlights of the weekend, the Senior Walk, at 2:45 p.m. The seniors will take one last stroll through the halls of JPPI as students, saying farewell to fellow students, teachers and faculty.

At 7:30 that night, the seniors and their families will attend the Baccalaureate Mass to be held at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on West End Avenue.

The Class of 2015 will receive their diplomas during Graduation at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the Grand Ole Opry on Opryland Drive.

JPPI MEETS NEW HEADMASTER

Mike Deely got a close look at Pope John Paul II High School, which he will lead as its next headmaster, during a recent visit to Hendersonville.

"It's been a lot of fun," said Mr. Deely, who visited the school April 11-15. "This school is better than even I thought it was. It makes you want to come to work."

Mr. Deely, who currently is the principal of Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego, California, will begin his new job as JPPI's headmaster on July 1.

During his visit, he met with current and former board



JPPI seniors enjoy Surf's Up, an annual event giving the seniors a chance to enjoy some fun in the sun.

The weekend will be capped off that night with Project Graduation, which will honor the success of the Class of 2015 with an all-night, alcohol and drug free celebration. The party will be packed full of fun, games, food and prizes for the new graduates to enjoy. They will arrive at JPPI between 11 p.m. and midnight, and they'll spend the night at the school, supervised by parents of underclassmen and faculty members. For more information about how to help with Project Graduation, contact Kim Fox at kfox4781@comcast.net.

members, faculty, staff, students, parents of current students and parents of prospective students. "This is the first time to really start doing work," Mr. Deely said, "listening to people, what they need from a headmaster, how I can serve them best."

The message from every group he met with was the same, Mr. Deely said: How to continue to build a school to allow the students to excel. "I'm not coming here to change JPPI, but to help them build the school they envision," Mr. Deely said. "They're doing really well."

Continued on page 2



A KNIGHT'S TALE



JPPI ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



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Camp JP II registration now open

Camp JP II will return to Pope John Paul II High School this summer with a choice of close to 40 camps, including favorites from past years and new options.

The camps will be held during the four weeks of June, Monday through Friday in two sessions: 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30-3:30 p.m. The cost of each camp is \$140. Those who sign up for four camps will be charged a discounted rate of \$515.

For an additional fee, early drop off and afternoon care, will be offered. "First Burst" allows parents to drop their camper off at 7:30 a.m., and "Last Blast" allows afternoon campers to stay until 5:30 p.m. Weekly lunch is also offered for a minimal fee.

Information about each of the camps and registration is available on the JP II website – www.jp2hs.org – under "Quicklinks."

JP II MEETS NEW HEADMASTER

Continued from page 1

Mr. Deely found the students he met with "are very aware of the gift they're getting at this place. They appreciate the faculty." But they want the school to help them balance "all the things a 14 to 18 year old has to deal with in America."

During his visit, Mr. Deely officially signed his contract as the school's new headmaster. He will succeed Faustin Weber, who announced last spring that this school year would be his last at JP II as he and his wife sought to move closer to their family in Mobile, Alabama. Mr. Weber has been announced as the principal of a new high school that is being built by the Archdiocese of Mobile and is scheduled to open in the fall of 2016.

Mr. Deely, 44, his wife Susan, and their children Clare, 6, and Atticus, 4, will move to Middle Tennessee in June.



Michael Deely, JP II's new headmaster, speaks to the students during a recent visit to the school.

MATH TEAM EXCELS IN REGIONAL COMPETITION

The JP II Math Team placed in the top 10 in one of six divisions at the Tennessee State Mathematics Teachers Competition held April 14 at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin.

In the competition, students across Tennessee take tests in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-calculus, Calculus and Statistics. The winning scores in each region are then submitted to determine the top winners in the state.

JP II competed in a region containing Sumner County, Davidson County, Wilson County, Macon County, and Trousdale County, and scored in every category. The next closest school in the region placed 15 students. Nine JP II students placed in the top three for their division, also the best in the competition. Particularly notable was the performance of JP II's Calculus team, which placed first, second, fourth, fifth and ninth in the region. The results included:

■ Algebra I – Alexandria Ficarro, third place.

■ Geometry – Perry Minichan second, Justin Humphries third, William Fussell fourth, Jack Brau seventh, and Jake Motz ninth.

■ Algebra II – Haoming Ning first, An Mei Little second, Alex He fifth.

■ Precalculus – Michael Koen second, Grace Adcox sixth, Grant Gonzalez ninth.

■ Calculus – Daniel Edwards first, Remilia Li second, Tyler Dorr fourth, Alyssa Rentuza fifth, Maggie Mann ninth.

■ Statistics – Skyler Voisin second, Chu Chu fourth, Zarina Tan sixth, Brennan Smith seventh, and Tristan McTasney eighth.

Congratulations for such outstanding results!

LAUREN RANSOM NAMED TO ALL-STATE TEAM

Senior Lauren Ransom has been named to the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Division II-AA All-State Basketball team, and she was named the Sumner County Publications Girls Co-Player of the Year on the All-County Basketball Team.

Lauren was a four-year starter for JP II, and as a freshman helped the team qualify for the Division II-AA State Tournament. This year, she was one of the team's leading scorers, averaging an impressive 14.3 points, 12 rebounds and three steals per game. She shot 70 percent from the

free-throw line.

Lauren scored more than 1,000 points for her career despite missing much of her junior season with a torn anterior-cruciate ligament (ACL) in her knee. She worked hard in rehabilitation to make her way back onto the court, starring for the Knights in her senior season.

Lauren is the daughter of Darrell and Erica Ransom and a graduate of St. Pius X Classical Academy. She and her family are parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Nashville.

AFRICA TRIP AN ENLIGHTENING EXPERIENCE FOR DEACON EDWARDS

On a recent trip to Africa, Deacon Brian Edwards, director of campus ministry at Pope John Paul II High School, met a teen-aged boy who received a bicycle through a Catholic Relief Services program that he could ride to school every day. Before having the bike, the boy would walk two and one half hours to get to school.

When Deacon Edwards asked him why he would walk so far to get to school, he said, the boy looked at him like the answer should be obvious and said, "Because I want a better life. I want a good education."

It was experiences like that and the opportunity to get to really know the people in the villages he was visiting that made his trip to Africa so enriching, Deacon Edwards said. "It was one of the best trips I've ever been on."

Deacon Edwards was one of six Catholic deacons and a priest who traveled to Zimbabwe as part of the Global Fellows program sponsored by Catholic Relief Services, the international relief agency founded by the U.S. Catholic bishops to help impoverished and disadvantaged people around the world.

In Zimbabwe, Deacon Edwards and the others on the trip visited several programs sponsored by CRS, including the program that provided the bicycle the teen was riding to school. Through that program, CRS arranged to have bicycles shipped to the small village where they were assembled and then given to students in the community to use until they graduate, Deacon Edwards said. Not only does the program make it easier for young people to get an education, it provided a few jobs in the community for people assembling the bikes.

In other locations, the delegation visited a home for street children and a microloan program that helped women start their own businesses. "We heard a lot about their success and how they felt they had lifted themselves out of poverty" thanks to the program, Deacon Edwards said.

The delegation also visited a peace project designed to reconcile groups that had long been divided by political rivalries, Deacon Edwards said.

As a Global Fellow, Deacon Edwards and the others who made the trip, help spread the word about these and other CRS programs. "We let people know



Members of a Global Fellows delegation dance with villagers in Zimbabwe while visiting programs helping poor people sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. Deacon Brian Edwards, director of campus ministry at JPII, was a member of the delegation.

what the Church is doing for those in greatest need," he said.

"We grow by knowing about other parts of the world," Deacon Edwards said. "It creates a sense of solidarity." Before the trip, the people he met "were non-existent in my mind," Deacon Edwards said. "Now they feel like brothers and sisters in the Church."

Deacon Edwards has been spreading the word about CRS and its programs at JPII. He helped organize the Rice Bowl program at JPII this year, in which students, faculty and staff donated their loose change to help support CRS' programs. He is available to talk about CRS to school and church groups. For more information, contact him at brian.edwards@jp2hs.org.

JPII SENIOR DEDICATES MORE THAN 120 HOURS OF SERVICE TO BROOKDALE

Pope John Paul II High School Senior Marta Gautsch has set the bar high when it comes to community service. She is a student in JPII's Hand in Hand Program, which provides an individualized high school program for students with intellectual disabilities. While in the Hand in Hand Program, Marta has been able to pursue her personal interests as well as demonstrate her compassion for serving others. Marta is always ready to help, whether it is another student, a teacher, or the elderly.

Marta has recorded more than 300 volunteer hours of community service at a variety of venues in Sumner County, which is far more than the required 130 hours each student at JPII completes. Most notably,

an amazing 121 hours of Marta's time has been spent volunteering at Brookdale (formally Sterling House), a senior living center, in Goodlettsville. Marta engages easily with the residents, calling many by name.

In addition to conversing with the residents, Marta has demonstrated leadership skills by teaching her fellow Hand in Hand classmates to clean and set the dining room. Brookdale is not all about work however. Once the dining room is set, Marta enjoys leading the residents in games such as bowling and corn hole. Marta's bright smile always warms the room.

For more information on the Hand In Hand Program contact Pam Eatman at pam.eatman@jp2hs.org.



Marta Gautsch, right, visits a resident at Brookdale, where she volunteers.

JPII SENIORS TO CONTINUE ATHLETIC CAREERS

Eight JPII seniors have signed to continue their athletic careers in college. They were honored at a signing ceremony at the school on Wednesday, April 15. They are:

■ Logan Taylor, baseball, Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin. Taylor is a four-year starter for the JPII varsity team as an outfielder. His junior year, he also was a relief pitcher and served as the team's closer. "Not many players are talented enough to step into this league and start as a freshman," Coach Michael Brown said. "I'm thrilled he's got the chance to play at Vol State. I'm sure he will play beyond that. He's got a very bright future." He is the son of Patti and Rick Taylor.

■ Casey Thompson, football, Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Thompson was a three-year starter for JPII after transferring to the school as a sophomore. "We were the lucky ones to get this model student athlete in our halls and on our fields," Coach Justin Geisinger said. "He earned all-state, all-region, all-county honors, was voted MVP O-Lineman for the team, voted captains award, AP Scholar, National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete, Academic All-District, and more ... all as an offensive linemen in a very tough league and excelled against some of the premier defensive players in the state." Thompson is the son of Jeannie and Sandy Thompson.

■ Thomas O'Berry, men's lacrosse, Ogelthorpe University in Atlanta. O'Berry is the most accomplished lacrosse player ever at JPII who didn't start playing until his freshman year, said JPII Coach Bob Page. As a midfielder, O'Berry defends the other team's best offensive player, and offensively, "he's our most dynamic midfielder," Coach Page said. He was elected a captain of the lacrosse team. "He has the total trust of the coaches," Coach Page said. "He's taken full advantage of the JPII experience." O'Berry, who also was a starter on the JPII football team, is the son of Bonnie Grissop-O'Berry and Bob O'Berry. He is a graduate of St. Joseph School in Madison.

■ Christian Roberts, soccer, Berry College in Mount Berry, Ga. Roberts is a three-year starter for the JPII varsity. "He's been a dynamic player for us, attacking teams with a tenacity we've been lacking," said Head Coach Alan Mila. "While he is not the most physically imposing player, he has learned to leverage his body to shield defenders from the ball on the attack, and to use his size and agility to dispossess opponents," Coach Mila said. "Coupled with his tenacity and his passion to win, Christian has been a vital member of the men's soccer program here at JPII. Christian will surely succeed at the next level as he continues to hone his already impressive arsenal of skills." He is the son of Christi and Dallas Roberts.

■ Whit Drennan, baseball, Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. "With Whit it was just a matter of time," said Coach Brown. "He started to show potential last spring and is really coming into his own. At 6'6 Whit is still learning to control his body and harness it. His best days are still ahead of him for sure." He is the son of Cherie and Greg Drennan. He also played basketball for four years at JPII and football for one.

■ Jack Gallagher, baseball, LaGrange College in LaGrange, Ga. Gallagher



Eight seniors have signed to continue their athletic careers in college. They are: (from left), Logan Taylor, baseball, Vol State; Thomas O'Berry, lacrosse, Oglethorpe University; Casey Thompson, football, Centre College; Annabel Yates, track and field, Spring Hill College; Rachael Leonard, lacrosse, St. Mary's College; Whit Drennan, baseball, Rollins College; Jack Gallagher, baseball, LaGrange College; Christian Roberts, soccer, Berry College.

is a three-year varsity player for JPII as a starter and relief pitcher. "Jack's got a bright future ahead of him," Coach Brown said. "He's earned the chance to play at the next level." "Jack has had a great work ethic ever since he set foot on campus," Coach Brown said. "He has set a good example for our younger players with his performance on and off the field, in season and off season." He is the son of Cindy and Rob Gallagher and a graduate of St. Edward School in Nashville.

■ Rachael Leonard, women's lacrosse, St. Mary's College, South Bend, Ind. "She comes from a very lacrosse-oriented family," Coach Megan Clarks said, noting that Leonard's three older brothers and her older sister all played lacrosse for JPII and her younger sister is a teammate. Her sister and one of her brothers also went on to play lacrosse in college. Leonard is a four-year starter as a defender for JPII, and has been a team captain for two years. "She's kind of the glue of our defense," Coach Clark said. Leonard also was a four-year member of the soccer team and swim team at JPII. She is the daughter of Kathleen and Ed Leonard and a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville.

■ Annabel Yates, track and field, Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. Yates has been competing in the throws – shot put, discus, javelin and hammer – for only 15 months, Coach Scott Shaver said. "At the conclusion of last season, which was her first, Annabel qualified for both the finals in the shot put and discus at the Division II region meet at MBA, and eventually finished in the top eight in both events in a field of throwers that produced five state qualifiers," Coach Shaver said. Competing with her summer team, the Steel Throwers, Yates qualified for the Southeast Regional Track and Field Meet in Birmingham, Ala., where she set a personal record in the shot put and took sixth place in the javelin. Yates, also played softball for JPII. She is the daughter of Mandy and David Yates and is a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake.

FINE ARTS SHINE AT ARTS IN THE ROUND

The Fine Arts Department showcased students' top efforts and performances during the Arts in the Round held Sunday, April 19. Parents and students were able to browse through the auxiliary gymnasium to see the best paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures of the visual arts. The show was juried and several students were honored with awards, including:

- Caitlyn Barnes for her piece "Isolation", which won the Sno-globe Buddha award for Best in Show.
- Reygan Putman for her untitled piece, which won the Iron Hedgehog award for Best of Drawing.
- Cathleen Humm for her painting "A Non-Abstraction", which won the Iron Owl award for Best of Painting.
- Libby Reese for her sculpture "Encyclopedia", which won the Iron Squirrel award for Best of Sculpture.
- Maggie Florek for her piece "Gritz", which won the Iron Snail award for Best of Mixed Media.
- Christian Roberts for his piece "Remnants", which won the Eiffel Tower award for Best of Digital.
- Max Swearingen for his photograph "Exquisite Sacrifice" which won the Iron Jack Award for Best of Photography.



Visitors to the Fine Arts Department's Arts in the Round event examine some of the artwork of JPII students.

- Christina Yi for her photograph "Excavate", which won honorable mention for Best of Photography.

Besides the visual arts, the program included performances by JPII's choirs, the Jazz Ensemble and theater students.

2015 HARVEST AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Headmaster Faustin Weber has announced the winners of this year's Harvest Awards for Excellence in Teaching. These awards are voted on by the students every year. The 2015 recipients are: math teacher Brent Alexander, science teacher Shara Bellamy, Spanish teacher Veronica Del Valle, history teacher Andrew Griffith, fine arts teacher Andy King, math teacher Betty Mayberry, math teacher Amanda Peper, theology teacher Brad Peper, history teacher Karen Phillips, history teacher Paul Saboe and theology teacher Brian Thomas.

The students also vote on "Most Inspirational Teacher" and "Most Inspirational Coach" each year. This year's "Most Inspirational Teacher" recipient was history teacher Scott Shaver. Head football coach Justin Geisinger received the award for "Most Inspirational Coach."

Rounding out the awards, Betsy Pierpaoli and Lori Jones received the "Headmaster Award" for their exemplary service, commitment and leadership at JPII. Ms. Pierpaoli has worked in the school's business office since JPII opened in 2002. Mrs. Jones has served in many roles at JPII since coming on in 2005, but most recently has served as the



This year's winners of the Harvest Awards for Excellence in Teaching are: (front row, L-R) Andrew Griffith, Amanda Peper, Paul Saboe, Brent Alexander, Brian Thomas and Andy King; (back row) Justin Geisinger, Scott Shaver, Karen Phillips, Veronica Del Valle, Shara Bellamy, Betsy Pierpaoli, Lori Jones, Brad Peper and Betty Mayberry. executive assistant for Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber expressed his gratitude for all the teachers of JPII in his assembly address with students, praising them for infusing the school with optimism and helping students stretch to achieve their goals.

TWO BASEBALL PLAYERS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Pope John Paul II High School seniors Jacob Telli and Dalton Smith were among 15 winners of a \$2,000 college scholarship from the Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association.

The scholarships were awarded during the Old Timers' 77th Annual

Banquet held Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Marriott Nashville Airport Hotel. Former Atlanta Braves star Dale Murphy was the guest speaker. Jacob and Dalton are returning starters for the Knights baseball team. The scholarships were based on academic achievement and community involvement.

MRS. MCLAREN SPENT NURSING CAREER SERVING OTHERS

As a girl growing up in Providence, Rhode Island, Jody McLaren was taught the importance of serving others. She did it as a Girl Scout Brownie visiting people with chronic illnesses in their homes, or collecting money for UNICEF or to fight cystic fibrosis. As an adult, that drive to service took her into nursing, where she's helped the mentally ill and the poor. And finally, it took her to Pope John Paul II High School, where she's been serving students as the school nurse since the school opened in August 2002.

On June 30, Mrs. McLaren's tenure at JPPII will end and her retirement will begin. But her interest in serving others will keep right on going. In retirement she hopes to volunteer with a literacy agency and at Meharry General Hospital holding newborn crack babies. She wants to teach painting to teens.

"I'll be very sad to go," Mrs. McLaren said. "But it's time for me to pursue other things, and I have a bucket list a mile long."

Mrs. McLaren earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Vermont and returned to school in her 30s to study nursing. "What I really wanted to be was a landscape architect," she said, but when she found out the work was seasonal, she opted for nursing. With her interest in serving and taking care of others, Mrs. McLaren said, "Nursing just seemed natural for me to go into."

"I was most interested in psychiatric nursing because I was interested in how the brain works," Mrs. McLaren said. During her career as a nurse, she's worked at several hospitals serving the mentally ill, the criminally insane, and teens with mental illnesses. "My background in psychiatric nursing has been a tremendous help in school nursing."

While living in Silver Springs, Maryland, Mrs. McLaren met her husband, Mike McLaren, JPPII's dean of students and a history teacher. He had moved to the United States after his tour of duty with Britain's Royal Air Force had ended. They were coaching in a youth soccer league in the area. "My team beat his and then he asked me out on a date," Mrs. McLaren said.

They married in 1986, while Mr. McLaren was teaching at St. Anselm School in the Washington, D.C., area. One of his students and a player on the junior



Jody McLaren

varsity soccer team he coached was Hans Broekman, who later became JPPII's founding headmaster. When Mr. Broekman took the job as the headmaster of Subiaco Academy, a Catholic boarding school in Arkansas, he asked Mr. McLaren to join him.

Mrs. McLaren worked as a home health care nurse visiting patients in their homes to make sure they were taking their medications, going to doctor's appointments and had enough to eat. "I saw a lot of people struggling financially." She then went to work at a psychiatric hospital in Fort Smith, Ark. Mr. Broekman eventually asked her to join the staff at Subiaco as the school nurse.

And when Mr. Broekman came to Hendersonville to open JPPII, he asked the McLarens to come with him. "We moved here on June 4, 2002. Hans had us working by June 7," Mrs. McLaren said. "I had six weeks to get the department going."

"The appeal to me was I would be the first. I would have to create the (program)," Mrs. McLaren said. "I was happy to come to a place where I felt like I could make an impact from the ground up."

She has made the school nurse's office at JPPII "a safe place for the kids to go," Mrs. McLaren said. She has a holistic approach that encourages both the physical and mental health of the students, Mrs. McLaren said. "I'm promoting health and healthy habits."

"They definitely care about their health," Mrs. McLaren said of the students at JPPII. They frequently stop by her office to ask her advice, she said. "I try to educate them on what's wrong so they can take care of themselves," she said.

Her office has about 1,200 student visits per school year, Mrs. McLaren said. "At times the job can be really chaotic."

The McLarens have taken care of children not only at school but in their home. They have been a host family for several foreign exchange students over the years. When they aren't taking care of children, they're taking care of animals. They've rescued 10 dogs over the years. "We're currently down to two. We moved here with five," Mrs. McLaren said. "Mike and I are caretakers."

Mrs. McLaren plans to keep working with teen-agers after her retirement. "They're funny, they're fun. They haven't finished developing so I can have an impact on that development," she said. "And they have energy. There's a pace with a teen-ager you don't get with an adult. I love the pace."

REUNION TO HONOR JPPII'S FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

The Class of 2005, Pope John Paul II High School's very first graduating class, was there in the beginning, creating traditions and setting expectations that define JPPII even today. School officials have planned a weekend of activities June 5-7 to celebrate the 10-year reunion of the pioneering Class of 2005, and the rest of JPPII's alumni.

The activities will begin with "Cocktails and Classmates" at 7 p.m. Friday, June 5 at Bar Louie in the Gulch in Nashville. The event is open to all members of the classes of 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Special guests for the evening will be Hans Broekman, the school's founding headmaster,

and all the alumni's favorite JPPII faculty and staff.

On Saturday, June 6, there will be a Reunion Dinner for the Class of 2005 and their guests at 6 p.m. at The Monthaven Mansion in Hendersonville.

The weekend will conclude with Sunday Fun Day on June 7. All JPPII alumni, alumni parents and families are welcome. There will be Mass in the JPPII Chapel at 11 a.m. followed by a Picnic Lunch on the school grounds at noon.

Mark your calendars and keep watch for more details to follow!