



JPII's founding headmaster, Hans Broekman, stopped by JPII recently during a visit from his home in Liverpool, England, where he is the principal of Liverpool College, a school for students ages 4-19. While at JPII, Mr. Broekman spoke to the students and visited with alumni, alumni parents, board members and current and former faculty and staff.

FORMER HEADMASTER VISITS JPII

Hans Broekman, the founding headmaster of Pope John Paul II High School, stood on the stage of the Ann and Monroe Carell Auditorium before an assembly of students on Monday, March 26.

"This is a tremendous honor for me," said Broekman, who was in Hendersonville visiting from England where he is principal of Liverpool College, a school for students ages 4 to 19. Standing on the stage, he was feeling "a flood of emotions, a flood of memories."

He and a handful of staffers started organizing the school, hiring faculty members, working in a trailer while JPII

was under construction, Broekman recalled. "Through the trailer popped people who are still here," he said, mentioning several of the original faculty members.

"I was privileged to be part of a team," Broekman said of the school's faculty and staff when it opened in the fall of 2002 and through his tenure, which ended in 2008. "The faculty here was the most cohesive, most dedicated, most stubborn team I have ever worked with. ..."

"Those were amazing days," he said.

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SOCIAL MEDIA:



POPE JOHN PAUL II
HIGH SCHOOL



JPII ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



@JPIIKNIGHTS

Headmaster
Mike Deely
615-822-2375
www.jp2hs.org



Camp JPII promises summer fun

Registration for Camp JPII 2018 is now open!

Camp JPII offers a unique blend of summer fun and educational opportunities for kids ages 5-18. This summer, Camp JPII will feature nearly 40 one-week camps throughout the month of June exploring a wide variety of art, academic and athletic topics.

Athletic camps will include baseball, basketball, golf, soccer, lacrosse, softball, volleyball, tennis, cheerleading and dance. There also will be camps for theater, art, robotics, creative writing, math and science. To help students prepare for high school and beyond, there will be camps on writing essays, ACT test preparation and study skills.

The camps will be held 9 a.m. to noon or 12:30-3:30 p.m. June 4-8, 11-15, 18-22 and 25-29. Before Care will be offered 8:30-9 a.m. and After Care 3:30-5:30 p.m. A weekly lunch plan is also available. To find more information about Camp JPII visit jp2hs.org/campus-life/extra-curricular-programs/camp-jpii.

SWEET SIXTEEN GALA ANOTHER SUCCESS

The Sweet Sixteen Gala, presented by Gordon Carroll Homes, JPII's premier fund-raising event of the year, was another success, highlighting the accomplishments of the school's students, faculty and supporters.

Among the honorees for the evening were:

■ **Knights of the Calvary** – the 2008 state championship bowling team and the team's coach that year, Therese Griner Haluska. John Reding, the former JPII bowling coach, also was honored for his ongoing commitment to the school and to its bowling program.

■ **Knights of Chivalry** – history teacher Paul Saboe and the alumni of the school's successful Model UN program. Mr. Saboe has been on the faculty of the school since it opened in the fall of 2002 and has been the faculty advisor of the Model UN team throughout its history. The team has earned more than 600 awards in competitions across the country.

■ **Knights of the Round Table** – Dr. Chad Swan and the school's Innov8 program under the direction of Science Department Chair Jennifer Dye. Dr. Swan, a vascular surgeon, started a summer internship program for students from JPII and Pope John Paul II High School in Slidell, Louisiana, his hometown. The program gives the students a close look at the work of a physician. Dr. Swan's internship program was one of the inspirations of the school's Innov8 program, which includes numerous internship opportunities throughout the school year, including with Dr. Swan's office.

The evening also featured a silent and live auction, dinner and dancing to the music of Rubiks Groove Party Band. The gala was once again held at the Hutton Hotel in Nashville.



A surprise guest at the Gala was Nashville Bishop J. Mark Spalding, who was installed as bishop the day before. With him at the gala were, from left, Dr. Jennifer Uhl, chair of the Board of Trustees, Dean of Admissions and Advancement Michelle Barber, and Headmaster Michael Deeley. Bishop Spalding came to the diocese from Louisville, Ky., where he was known as a strong supporter of Catholic education.



The 2008 State Championship Bowling Team was honored as the Knights of the Calvary. Pictured are Headmaster Mike Deely, Martin Strobel '10, Coach Therese Griner Haluska, Logan Taylor '08, Joseph Rogers '08, Mikey Twilbeck '08, Coach John Reding and Athletic Director John Dempsey.



Dr. Chad Swan and the Innov8 program internship sponsors were honored as the Knights of the Round Table. On hand were internship sponsors Matt Clausen, Evie Clausen, Pat Kyriakidis, Dr. Chad Swan, Dr. Maureen Gannon, Lane Shaver and Ed Leonard.



Model UN team faculty advisor Paul Saboe and team members, Michael Zola '06, Caroline Pekarsky '08, and Nick Cherry '09, were honored as Knights of Chivalry.

FRESHMAN CLASS FOR 2018-19 FILLS QUICKLY

JP II's reputation in the community for strong academics, wide-ranging extra-curricular opportunities, and a strong faith environment continues to grow, so does interest among potential students. The freshman class for next school year filled up with early action applicants and there is a wait pool of students hoping a spot will open up.

"I've never seen the volume of contracts come back that quickly," said John Cooper, Director of Admissions.

JP II has set its freshman class for next year at 155 students, which allows the school to keep its class sizes to 20-22 students, Mr. Cooper explained. "That's really been fortunate for our students."

The wait pool includes about 25 applicants, Mr. Cooper said. Many of them are currently enrolled in public schools, so they have time to wait for a spot to open before making a final decision, he said.

JP II also plans to accept 10 new students for the sophomore class and 10 for the junior class, said Michelle Barber, Dean of Admissions and Advancement for JP II. "We're already more than halfway there in both of those classes," she said.

In light of the rising number of applicants, Mrs. Barber and Mr. Cooper are encouraging families to apply early. "We do encourage folks to make a pre-application for next year," Mrs. Barber said.

"It's more important that people get their application in," Mr. Cooper said. "We're seeing more seventh graders file applications than ever. As of right now we have close to 40 applications so far for the 2019-20 school year."

Even younger students and their families can start the application process by pre-applying, which will ensure that they are kept abreast of all the admission deadlines and events on JP II's campus. Families can fill out a pre-application online by clicking on the Admissions link on the JP II website: www.jp2hs.org.

Mr. Cooper finds that prospective students and their parents are attracted to JP II by the school's strong reputation for its academic program that challenges students and leaves them well-prepared for college. "Yes we challenge the students, but I think we also offer a nicely balance program for all students," Mr. Cooper said.

JP II SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

Pope John Paul II High School seniors Alexandria Ficarro and AnMei Little have been named National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program, according to Karen Phillips, Assistant Headmaster and Dean of Students at JP II.

Ficarro, daughter of Jim and Arlene Ficarro, a Davidson Academy alumna and member of Long Hollow Baptist Church, is a basketball cheerleader, Lead Ambassador, and a member of the Teen Read advisory, the JP II Rock Band, and the Mass choir. She is also a founding member of the Sign Language Club, which she helped start during her sophomore year.

Ficarro is currently taking five AP classes and has made the Headmaster's List every quarter during her tenure at JP II.

Little, daughter of Walter and Shannon Little, a Merrol Hyde Magnet School alumna and member of Christ Church Cathedral, is president of the National Honor Society, Vice President of the Veritas Council, a Lead Ambassador, captain of the Knights girls' soccer team, and a member of the National Art Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, the JP II Math Team, Model UN, the Science Olympiad team, and the Knights indoor soccer team.

Outside of JP II, she is a member of the Tennessee United Soccer Club, attended the Tennessee Governor's School for the Sciences and Engineering, and was an optometry intern at the Kelly Vision Center. She has been named a JP II Scholar and has made the Headmaster's List every quarter during her tenure at JP II.

"These students have shown outstanding aptitude in the classroom since they stepped onto campus," said Phillips. "Their work

ethic and skills in the classroom represent the level of talent for which these tests and the National Merit Scholarship Program are searching. We are very proud of them."



Alexandria Ficarro



AnMei Little

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955.

High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test – which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year – and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

Of the 1.6 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest scores qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Of those 50,000, only 15,000 are named National Merit Finalists. These students will now compete to receive the National Merit Scholarship, awarded to only 7,500 students in the program.

Since 2005, more than 85 JP II students have received commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

HICKMAN OFF TO FAST START FOR VANDY BASEBALL

Mason Hickman's college baseball career at Vanderbilt University has taken off like a rocket. The right-handed pitcher and 2017 graduate of Pope John Paul High School, has started his freshman season for the Commodores with a 5-0 record and a 2.08 ERA.

Against Louisiana State University, a perennial power and last year's College World Series runner-up, Mason through a complete game, two-hit shutout to help Vanderbilt notch a 1-0 win on the road and win the crucial SEC series. He has helped Vanderbilt climb to a number seven ranking nationally.

Mason earned his first collegiate win on Feb. 27, tossing four innings against Austin Peay in his first collegiate start. He has started the season with 28 strikeouts in 26 innings, holding opposing batters to



Mason Hickman

a .180 batting average.

In an interview with The Tennessean, Vanderbilt head coach Tim Corbin had high praise for Mason. "I think he's a winner," Corbin told The Tennessean. "I think he's one of those kids that when he gets the ball, you just sense that good things are going to come out of him when he gets on the mound."

Mason was a four-year starter for the Knights baseball team while in high school, helping JPII claim regional championships as a freshman and a senior. Mason was named to All-State and All-Region teams during his sophomore, junior and senior seasons and was a Tennessee Mr. Baseball finalist as a senior.

During his time at JPII, Mason was a true scholar-athlete. Besides his achievements on the baseball field and as a two-year member of the JPII basketball team, Mason was a member of the National Honor Society.

Congratulations Mason!

JPII BOWLER FINISHES FOURTH IN STATE TOURNAMENT

Pope John Paul II High School junior Quinn Collins hoped to repeat as the Division II bowling state champion, but fell a bit short, finishing fourth.

Collins, who was named the Division II Bowler of the Year, had a 219 average during the season, the highest among all bowlers.

In the semifinals of the boys' Individual State Tournament, Collins finished fifth with a four-game total of 756 and average of 189.

JPII junior Ian Dillick finished seventh with a four game total of 695 and an average of 173.75.

The top six advanced to the finals, where the fifth place finisher plays the sixth, the winner plays four, the winner plays three, the winner plays two and the winner plays one.

Collins defeated Kenton Gentry of Ezell Harding 194-184 in the first match and C.J. Petrin of Notre Dame 226-188 in the second. His tournament ended when he lost to Jimmy Morrow of Memphis University School 258-199.

STUDENTS SHINE IN 'ONCE UPON A MATTRESS'

JPII students showcased their theatrical talents once again in the spring musical, "Once Upon a Mattress," performed March 2-4.

Leading the cast were Cainie Brown as Princess Winnifred and Devon LeCave as Prince Dauntless.

Other cast members were: Malachy O'Connell, the Minstrel; Emily DeWitt, Princess #12/Court; Russel Sellers-Fernandez, Wizard; Cat Bender, Larken; Caeley Murray, Queen Aggravain; Chris Muller, Harry;

In the girls' Individual State Championships semifinal round, Samantha Aldrich, a JPII junior, finished 16th with a total of 518 in four games for an average of 129.5.

In the boys' Team State Championships, JPII entered as the fourth seed from the Middle Region. The Knights took on Friendship Christian, the number one seed from the Middle Region, but lost 18-9

Collins and Waylon Jin both won twice in the three-game match.

In the girls' Team State Championship, JPII, the third seed from the Middle Region, defeated Knoxville Webb, the first seed from the East Region, 17-10, in the first round.

The Knights were led by Arianne Dayrit and Reilly Aldrich who won all three of their games.

In the second round, JPII fell to eventual state champion Friendship Christian 20.5 to 6.5. the Knights won only one of the three games. Dayrit, Samantha Aldrich, Mandy Hua and Katie Dorr, all won games during the match.

Jack Julow, King Sextimus; Miles Robinson, Jester; Austin Wilhite, Studley/Court; Oliver Antone, Luce/Court; Stephen Smart, First Knight/Court; Layne Gardner, Second Knight/Court;

Nolan Beasley, Third Knight/Court; William Wagner, Fourth Knight/Court; Lance Best, Fifth Knight/Court; Rae Larson, Rowena/Court; Virginia Sullivant, Merrill/Court;

Bella Grace Valente, Lucille/Court; Tessa Herzer, Emily/Court; KB Boyers, Mabelle/Court; Mandy Hua, Nightingale Court.

ATHLETES SIGN TO CONTINUE CAREERS IN COLLEGE

Five student athletes at Pope John Paul II High Schools recently signed to continue their athletic careers in college.

■ Reanna McNair has signed to play lacrosse for Birmingham Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama. McNair has been a four-year starter for JPII as a goalie. She chose Birmingham Southern because “I love the community,” McNair said.

Birmingham Southern is a Division III program that competes in the Southern Athletic Association.

McNair is the daughter of Sarah and Lee McNair, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville, and a graduate of St. Joseph School.

■ Sasha Chunchukov has signed to play lacrosse for Ave Maria University in Ave Maria, Florida, near Naples. Chunchukov has been a varsity player at JPII for four years and a two-year starter as a defender. “It’s a home away from home,” Chunchukov said of Ave Maria. “I was looking for a smaller school.”

Ave Maria University is a NAIA program that competes in the Sun Conference. She is the daughter of Michelle and Alex Chunchukov.

■ Leah Swann has signed to play lacrosse for Berry College in Berry, Georgia. She has been a four-year varsity player at JPII as an attacker. She chose Berry because “It has a really good pre-vet program,” Swann said.

Berry is a Division III program and a member of the Southern Athletic Association. Swann is the daughter of Kara and Colin Swann.

■ Jake Motz has accepted a scholarship offer to play football for Columbia University, an Ivy League school in New York City.

Motz was a three-year starter at offensive tackle for JPII, where he was a first team All Region and All-State player. After his senior season, he was named the Sumner County Lineman of the Year. He also is a recipient of the Charles W. Hawkins Scholar-Athlete Award, which was presented at the 52nd annual Middle Tennessee Chapter National Football Foundation banquet. The award is issued to the top high school and collegiate football scholar-athletes nationally.

“The athletic and academic opportunities are amazing” at Columbia,



Leah Swann



Jake Motz



Gracey King

Motz said. “It’s the combination of everything I wanted.”

Columbia is an NCAA Division I program that competes in the Ivy League. Motz plans to major in engineering.

He is the son of Jennifer and Greg Motz.



Reanna McNair



Sasha Chunchukov

■ Gracey King has signed to play volleyball at the Sewanee: University of the South Tennessee.

King was a two-year starter for JPII at libero. She was the team captain and Most Valuable Player her senior year. She also received the team’s Hustle Award her junior and senior seasons and was named All Region honorable mention.

King was attracted to Sewanee by the excellent academics, and she enjoyed spending time with the volleyball team. “it seemed like I fit really well,” she said.

King is the daughter of Amber and Kevin McManus, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake Church, and a graduate of St. Joseph School.

JPII SCIENTISTS PLACE AT SCIENCE OLYMPIAD REGIONAL

Members of the JPII Science Olympiad team put their science skills and knowledge on display at the 2018 Regional Competition, held Jan. 20 at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, with many placing in a wide range of competition events.

JPII team members who placed included: Write It – Do It: An Mei Little and Elena Baker, first place; Remote Sensing: Madeline Hartlage and Devon LeCave, first place; Experimental Design: Devon LeCave, Madalyn Dye and Jacob Vaughn, second place; Game On: William Fussell and Jacob Vaughn, third place; Ecology: Aken Chani and Yash Garg, third place; Hover Craft: An Mei Little and Devon LeCave,

third place.

Dynamic Planet: Christina Lambert and Madeline Hartlage, fourth place; Thermodynamics: Joshua Smith and Rita Fan, fourth place; Disease Detectives: Jake Shaver and Elena Baker, fourth place; Forensics: An Mei Little and Joshua Smith, fourth place; Fermi Questions: Aken Chani and Elena Baker, fourth place; Chem Lab: William Pacwa and Rita Fan, fourth place; Rocks and Minerals: William Pacwa and Aken Chani, fifth place.

Members of the JPII team competed in all 23 events.

MR. ELFERS FINDS HOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENT AT JP II

Jim Elfers was new to Nashville last summer and looking for a job. He heard good things about JP II High School from his wife, Elizabeth, a former teacher at JP II and now on the staff at Father Ryan High School.

"During her time at JP II, she felt like she learned so much," said Mr. Elfers, who joined the JP II faculty this year as a Spanish teacher.

"It's an extremely hospitable environment. I felt very welcomed by students and faculty," Mr. Elfers said of JP II. "The students are sharp. They care. There's a faith-based mission at the school, which to me is very important. And the administration embraces that."

Mr. Elfers followed his faith into a career as an educator. A product of Catholic schools in his hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Elfers pursued a business degree from Xavier University, a Jesuit school in Cincinnati.

"I was also really active in campus ministry," Mr. Elfers said. "That led to an internship at a spiritual center in Cincinnati."

His experience in campus ministry and the spiritual center inspired Mr. Elfers to earn a master's degree in pastoral ministry at the University of Dayton, a Catholic school run by the Marianist fathers.

After earning his master's in 2007, he went to work in pastoral ministry at Moeller High School, a Catholic high school in Cincinnati operated by the Marianist Fathers, for seven years.



Jim Elfers

While he was working in pastoral ministry, Mr. Elfers also was developing a deep love for the Spanish language, particularly after spending a summer in Guatemala. "I was the kid in Spanish class who was like, 'Why do I need to learn this?'" Mr. Elfers said. "As soon as I graduated from Xavier, I realized what a missed opportunity it was."

He had a strong desire to explore the Spanish language, Mr. Elfers said. "Experiencing other cultures was really inspiring to me."

In 2012, Mr. Elfers started working on a degree in Spanish at the University of Cincinnati. After graduating in 2014, he started teaching Spanish at Moeller. "I wanted to stay in education," Mr. Elfers said. "I love working with young people. The high school age is such an important time. To walk with students through the ups and downs is inspiring." He had great role models when he was in high school, Mr. Elfers said. "If I can walk with students like my former mentors walked with me, I feel that's very fulfilling."

Mr. Elfers teaches Level 1 and Level 2 Spanish. But teaching at a Catholic school allows him to bring his faith into his work. "If we're not energized to bring our own faith, our own knowledge to the classroom, the students feel that," he said. "I think everything we teach is tied into the dignity of the human person. We're always teaching through the lens of the dignity of every person. We believe that God is present in every person. Catholicism calls us to live and learn and grow respecting that dignity of other people."

Teaching at a school which encompasses a plethora of faiths presses Elfers to take opportunities to explain aspects of Catholicism that come up during the school day, Mr. Elfers said. "We get back to a loving Creator," he said. "This is common ground we can all walk on together."

FORMER HEADMASTER URGES STUDENTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Continued from page 1

There are three groups of people who make the gift of the school possible, Broekman said.

The first were the late Ann and Monroe Carell, who made the foundational donation to the capital campaign that raised money to build the school. They decided to make the gift after an audience with the school's namesake, St. John Paul II, Broekman said.

"When they met St. John Paul II they saw excellence was transformative," Broekman said. "Monroe Carell told me, 'I want you to build a school with that excellence.'"

The second group is the people of the diocese who contributed to the campaign to build the school, he said. "People who have no chance to ever have a child in this school, they wanted to give you that gift."

The third group is the students themselves, who will repay the gift of their experience at JP II with their support later in life, Broekman said.

The efforts of the builders of the school were guided by three "faiths," Broekman said.

The first is faith in academic rigor. "You've got to work, you've got to read, you've got to think. That was in the DNA from the very beginning," he said. "That engagement with that rigor is a life changing experience."

Second was a faith in the students. "We know how important you are. We knew about your abilities. We know about your talent. We know about your grace-filled freedom to do what is right," Broekman said. "We had faith you would change the world for the better."

Third, "We had faith in Christ Jesus," Broekman said. "In a school like this ... next to you is the figure of Christ who invites you, who guides you. ... Jesus has a plan for you and for us collectively. We trust him. That trust opens up the future for you."

During Broekman's visit, he was welcomed back by current and former teachers and staff who served with him at the school, board members, parents of alumni, and alumni.