



The Blue Jay



Back to School 2016

Volume 89, No. 1

Welcome Week, Go!



The hunt for Pokemon, which has taken the country by storm, has even invaded the games of Welcome Week as the school year commenced.

Pikachu, right photo, was seen scurrying about the Traditions Courtyard all week, and even made its way into the inflatable obstacle course. Earlier in the week, a colorful take on a medieval joust took place with paintrollers instead of lances. Student Council Treasurer Eddie Redmann, above left, scores a direct hit against fellow junior Jack Chaney.

Staff photos by
Richi Fernando (top) and
Matthew O'Neill (right)



Boosting spirit goal of Council

Students worked all summer to plan year

By John Kling
Staff Writer

As the new school year begins, the Student Council Executive Board has been working full steam ahead throughout the summer.

Under the supervision of new Student Council moderators Khanh Nguyen and Justin Genovese, the Executive Board, class level officers, and several homeroom representatives met in June to discuss affairs heading into the 2016-17 school year. Looking forward, the dedicated Blue Jay leaders set goals, planning grade-by-grade events as well as schoolwide activities, and improving upon homeroom spirit on each grade level.

"We are really trying to grasp what's best for the homeroom by learning from the homeroom masters," President William Fine said.

Later in the summer, Fine and Vice President Guy Cresson reconvened the board to plan out the year as a whole to maximize participation. Their main focus was to work together to plan a fun and energetic first semester in order to instill a strong sense of Blue Jay pride in all students, especially the incoming eighth graders and new freshmen.

The first activities was the effective Welcome Week, in which the eighth graders were especially invited to partake in a cavalcade of games and other fun lunchtime plans in order to make

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Meet the new faculty members for 2016

As the new school year begins, Jesuit welcomes seven new faculty members to Carrollton and Banks.

Jason Britsch and Jordan Holmer are this year's members of the Alumni Service Corps. Each are members of the Blue Jay Class of 2012. In addition to their teaching duties, each also will participate in student retreats and such events as dances and gym nights.

Britsch, a graduate of the University of Dallas, joins the English Department, teaching English I. He said he also looks forward to being involved with such groups as the Pro-Life Club and the Sodalties, as well as showing Blue Jay spirit from the stands at various sporting events.

Most especially, he said he hopes to get to know his students and help them in their journey to

become men for others.

After leaving Carrollton and Banks, Holmer continued his Jesuit education at Marquette University, where he earned his degree in computer engineering. Now back at Jesuit, he will be teaching Computer Literacy.

Holmer said he also looks forward to working with the Academic Games team, the MCJROTC, and the Lego Robotics League.

The new director of Campus Ministry, Peter Flores, is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he studied philosophy and theology. A member of the Blue Jay Class of 2009, Flores returns to Carrollton and Banks after teaching at Jesuit Tampa and Mount Carmel Academy. At those schools, he

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New faculty members gathered outside the Carrollton Avenue entrance to the school for a group photo. Seated, from left: Jordan Holmer '12, Monica Younger, and Jason Britsch '12. Standing, from left: Todd Velianski, Christopher McCabe, Peter Flores '09, and Andrew Lade '07.

Hard work, lifelong lessons



For their service project, a group of 18 juniors headed to a remote village in Panama to build a basketball court, part of the Courts for Kids group. More than just a playing area, however, the hard work resulted in a place for the village to gather, and engage in economic activity. The volunteers, meanwhile, learned more about another culture, as well as how to overcome a variety of obstacles.

Panama service trip offers juniors taste of new reality

By Wesley Bennett Faust
Assistant Photo Editor

During junior year, all Jesuit students are required to complete 100 hours of service for the community. One way of completing the required hours is a service trip. More than merely efficient, however, it can be a life-transforming experience.

Organized by Director of Community Service Kevin Murphy '00, the junior service trip to Panama took us to the most remote location most of us had ever visited. The trip was chaperoned by Social Studies teacher Wade Trosclair '07, and Theology teacher Susan de Boisblanc.

To arrive at our final destination, we had to use four separate types of transportation. I believed this to be odd, but I expected the trip to be similar to previous trips I had heard about. That quickly changed!

Our boat was in the Pacific Ocean only about 300 yards from the coast of Panama, and suddenly, I heard chatter between the soldiers driving the boat. Then the Peace Corps volunteer exclaimed, "We need to get out of the boat." Next thing I realized, my classmates and I were knee deep in the Pacific with all of our luggage on our shoulders. This was the moment I knew this trip would not be like any other.

Reaching the shore, we gathered our belongings at the local army outpost. At this point, we split into two groups. One group loaded onto a flatbed truck to take an hour and a half drive down a bumpy one-lane road accommodating two-way traffic.



Bucket by bucket, the Blue Jay volunteers and members of the community dug gravel to mix into concrete. Hard work was usually followed by play and relaxing socializing with the people.

The others waited at the outpost for five hours until the truck returned to pick them up.

Once we regrouped in Dayperu, the village we would be staying in for the following week, we enjoyed a phenomenal presentation of native music and dance. As the music's volume increased, we found ourselves dancing with the locals under the sole light source, a small fluorescent light hanging from a wire in the center of the roof.

Over the next four days, we hand mixed more than 1,500 buckets of gravel to pour nearly 300 square meters of concrete, using only wheelbarrows. The result would become a basketball court, but it was also much more.

"The purpose of the Courts for Kids organization is not simply to build a basketball court where the local kids can shoot a few hoops," de Boisblanc said. "It is a place where the whole community can gather together for social events, traditional dances and the buying and selling of handmade goods."

"It is an economic boon for the whole village because it allows the village to rent out the venue for profit," she noted. "For most of us though, the relationships built working side by side with members of the village was, by far, the most rewarding aspect of our project."

We really did get to know the people we were working with

throughout the experience. After every day of work, the locals would challenge us to a soccer match that would develop into three matches before the call for suppertime.

The food was unusual for a New Orleanian. The diet included fried, mashed, or boiled plantains. The protein portion of the meal usually included fried fish, but not the fried fish we know and love. We were served half of a sea bass. To prepare it, the cooks would cut a fish in half and then fry it, scales and all.

The way of life for the people of Dayperu is beyond difficult. They only have electricity in

Faculty

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also coached cross country and track.

In addition to his duties coordinating Campus Ministry, Flores will teach the senior Christian Vocations course.

He said his wide-ranging hobbies include listening to rap music, paddleboarding and running, and reading the works of G.K. Chesterton.

Another Blue Jay alumnus, Andrew Lade, Class of 2007, joins the Science Department, where he will teach Environmental Science.

Lade has previously taught at Tulane and Loyola universities. He received his bachelor's degree from Tulane, and later earned his master's in geoscience from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

The Science Department also welcomes Monica Younger, who will be teaching Chemistry I. Younger is a 1993 graduate of Ursuline Academy, and earned her bachelor of science degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 1997, and a master's in education from Our Lady of Holy Cross College in 2014.

She has taught chemistry for the past 13 years at Belle Chasse High School. She and her husband, Paul, have two sons, Evan and Max, each of whom are currently Blue Jays.

Christopher McCabe, a New Orleans native, also has returned home to teach in the Theology Department, where he'll be helming five sections of the Morality course for juniors.

McCabe spent the past five years teaching theology as Xavier High School in Manhattan, and said he and his wife are glad to be back home to raise their daughter around friends, family and the culture they love.

Well versed in Jesuit education, McCabe earned his degree in theology and philosophy from Spring Hill College, and his master's from Boston College.

When not teaching, he said he enjoys traveling, playing board games, camping and hiking. He also has a passion for community service and service trips.

Todd Velianski also comes from the Northeast to join the Theology Department. A native of Phillipsburg, N.J., he studied theology at the University of Notre Dame and Boston College. His particular areas of focus included sacred scripture and liturgy.

Other interests include classical languages, medieval literature and folklore studies. In high school, Velianski participated in public forum debate, which he said he considers one of the best co-curricular activities to engage young minds.

Outside of the classroom, he said he enjoys exploring his new city. Other hobbies include reading, boxing, weight training, and sitting in coffee shops until closing time.

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The MCJROTC Academic team, in just its first year, earned a second-place finish in the national tournament in Washington, D.C. The members of the team also had a chance to tour the nation's capital earlier this summer. They are, from left, senior John Crowson, juniors Donald Barrett and Giovanni Lorusso, senior Travis Kieff, and junior Matthew Richards.

Academic drills score for team from MCJROTC

By Peyton Toups
Entertainment Editor

It might be one of Jesuit's newest teams, but it proved to be off to a strong start this summer.

The newly formed MCJROTC Academic Team traveled to Washington, D.C., in June to compete in the national JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl, a contest established by the College Options Foundation.

The team brought home a second-place trophy, quite an accomplishment for a team in its infancy.

"The Foundation is angled to improve the academic scores and scholarship options for ROTC cadets," said John Crowson, last year's Academic Team captain.

JLAB is held annually each June in the nation's capital. It involves Junior ROTCs from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, as they compete for the national title. Similar to Quiz Bowl, each team competes answering a series of academic

related questions.

"The questions were invigorating and really tough," Crowson said. Unlike Quiz Bowl, however, questions from the ROTC curriculum must also be answered. There are two preliminary rounds in which teams compete online before the JLAB. The cadets complete tests on JROTC and high school curriculum before the national championship.

Seniors John Crowson and Travis Kieff and juniors Donald Barrett, Matthew Richards, and Giovanni Lorusso made up last year's team.

"It was a great experience for the ROTC Academic Team to compete against teams from throughout the nation, and it was a great chance to tour our nation's capital," said LtCol. Tim Huete, director of Jesuit's MCJROTC program.

Competing out of thousands across the nation in the preliminary rounds, and about 100 in Washington, MCJROTC Academic Team is off to a promising start with such a strong showing this year.

of duties such as keeping the Coke machines filled as well as make the courtyard come alive during lunch and assembly pep rallies."

The rest of the Executive Board, which was sworn in at one of the first morning assemblies of the year, includes Treasurer Eddie Redmann, Secretary Leo John Arnett, Jacob Marshall as senior class president, Henry McAloon as junior class president, and executive aides Jandon Briscoe, Karl Hoefer, and Andrew Stahl. They all said that they look forward to serving the Jesuit community to the best of their ability this school year.

Council Continued from Page 1

their first few weeks of high school enjoyable and lighthearted, since it can be a daunting and intimidating experience for any new student.

Other events will keep that increased sense of school spirit flourishing throughout the year.

"We hope to improve pep rallies and have more of them to make Blue Jay spirit really come alive this year," Fine said.

"We also made a point to do things differently from last year," Cresson added, "staying on top

Peter Finney, Class of '45, sportswriting legend, dies

For generations of readers, sportswriter Peter Finney provided the last word on all sports.

Through nearly 15,000 columns that he wrote in a career spanning 68 years, Mr. Finney truly covered the wide world of sports.

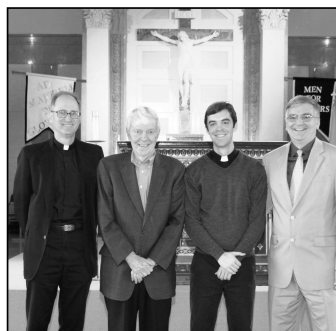
He died at his home in New Orleans on Aug. 13. Mr. Finney was 88.

The seed of that journalism career began when he was a student at Jesuit High School, where he was sports editor of *The Blue Jay*.

Shortly after graduating in 1945, he began freelancing for the old *New Orleans States*.

Soon after earning his journalism degree from Loyola University in 1949, he joined the paper's staff, eventually becoming sports editor as the various local dailies merged into *The Times-Picayune*.

His career spanned changes in the newspaper world from the days of manual typewriters and hot type to posting reports



Fr. Raymond Fitzgerald, S.J., greeted sportswriter Peter Finney when his grandson, Fr. Peter Finney III, celebrated Mass here in 2012. Joining them was Peter Finney Jr., editor of *The Clarion Herald*.

on websites from laptops in the pressbox.

He was named Jesuit's Alumnus of the Year in 1971.

That was just one of the many awards and honors Mr. Finney received, with customary quiet humility, throughout his career.

Having covered the New Orleans Saints from the team's inception 1966 to its winning the Super Bowl in 2010, he was honored by the Saints Hall of

Fame in 2013.

Earlier this year, many of his favorite columns were compiled for a book, "The Best of Peter Finney, Legendary New Orleans Sportswriter."

A most fitting title, indeed. Peter Finney will be remembered not only as the greatest sportswriter this city has ever known, but as a kind and generous man who loved his work, his town, and most of all, his family.

This weekend's dance is social highlight of school year's start

By William Fine
Staff Writer

There is often a question in every student's life of who will he take to the next dance. There is an easy answer for all students with this dilemma as the first school dance of the year rolls around.

Saturday's Back to School Dance is a sock-hop style dance where students can come without a date and interact with plenty of girls invited from area high schools.

Girls from several area high schools will be invited to the dance in the Student Commons, leading to a favorable ratio for Jesuit students. The dance also is a great opportunity, especially for the

eight graders, to meet other Jesuit students.

Though informal, the dance, which will likely spill out into the courtyard, has a dress code. The theme is a Hawaiian Luau meaning that one should don a Hawaiian shirt and a lei. Not only is this in keeping with the theme but it is also one of the most stylish outfits of modern times.

The dance will feature a mixture of pop music, line dances, and oldies-but-goodies. It is also a rather early dance starting at 7 and ending at 10 p.m.

With almost 1,300 people attending last year, this year's Back to School Dance is the place to be. It kills two birds with one stone as well: a student who might come to the dance without date might well find himself a date for the next big celebration, the Homecoming dance at the Superdome.

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BLUE JAY GOLD

Rio Olympics stir memories of a Jesuit athlete who set world record at '32 Los Angeles Games

By Jonathan LeBrun
News Editor

When the ancient Greeks held the first Olympic Games, they could not have possibly imagined that it would become the international spectacle it is today. Since 1904, when medals were first awarded in the modern Olympics, athletes from around the world have competed to win bronze, silver and gold medals.

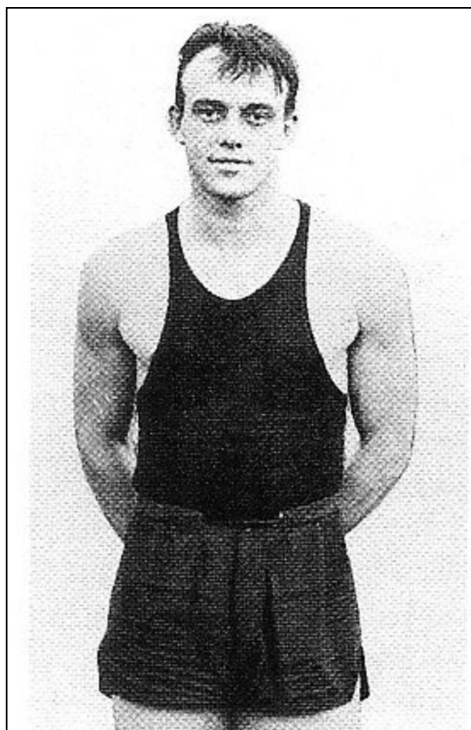
One of those athletes includes an alumnus from right here at Jesuit High School, who represented our country on the world's biggest stage.

Martin Emmett Toppino, Class of 1927, was his class president, captain of the baseball team, member of Sodality, and assistant editor of The Blue Jay newspaper during his time at Jesuit.

His true gift, however, was track and field. He completed the 100-meter dash during his senior year, with an amazing time of 9.8 seconds – a world record at the time.

After graduating from Jesuit, Toppino enrolled at Loyola University in New Orleans. As a member of the Loyola track and field team, Toppino broke his own record in the 100 meter dash with a new time of 9.6 seconds, establishing him as one of the greatest sprinters worldwide. Tad Gormley, track coach of Loyola, even proclaimed Toppino “the best sprinter he had ever seen.”

In 1932, his record times

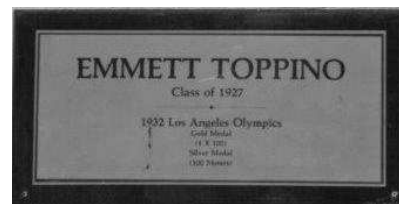
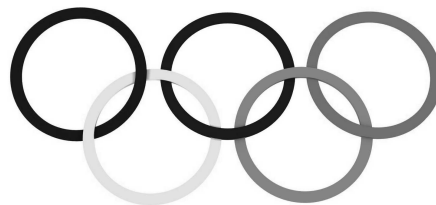


In his senior year at Jesuit in 1927, Martin Emmett Toppino set a world record in the 100-meter dash. He would go on to win gold and silver medals in the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

lead him to compete in the National Amateur Athletic Union Championships (AAU), in which the top four finishers would clinch a spot to compete in the Olympics. Toppino placed fifth in

the trials, but fortunately, the AAU decided, for the first time in history at a national meet, to use the automatic camera for all photo finishes.

The officials saw the photo



A plaque commemorating Emmett Toppino's Olympic achievements hangs in the Birdcage with his portrait.

depicting that he truly finished in fourth place, not fifth. With that finish, Toppino earned a spot on the American 4x100 Meter Relay Team and the chance to win a gold medal in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics along with Robert Kiesel, Hector Dyer, and Frank Wykoff.

The U.S. team won gold with the Olympic-record time of 40 seconds.

“We won because we had four men who could tie the world's record in the 100-yard dash consistently,” teammate Dyer said in an interview with the Amateur Athletic Association of Los Angeles. “The other teams, Germany and Italy, only had one man that could do that on each team. So, we were yards ahead of

them.”

In 1971, at the age of 61, Toppino died. He was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame 10 years later.

As the Olympic Games move on from Rio 2016 to Tokyo 2020, we can only imagine what the future holds. Perhaps someone you see playing ping pong on the fourth floor or intramural sports on the field or simply sitting right next to you in class may capture the world's attention in those astonishing two weeks.

If you don't believe me, next time you walk the second floor hallway, look at the pictures on the walls and stop and see the Class of 1927 with Jesuit's own world-class Olympian, Martin Emmett Toppino.

Panama

Continued from Page 2

three buildings. Grass is cut using only machetes. The village just recently received running water but we could only drink from the five-gallon jugs we brought with us.

The final day of the trip consisted of a three-hour hike to the source of the river that brought fresh water to the village. We followed the local guide down paths six inches wide that ended with a stunning waterfall that cascades down the side of a mountain.

This trip allowed me to grab hold of reality of the world I call home. After the flood of new culture, food, landscape, and people, it seems that I have seen life through a drastically different lens.

If anyone is considering a service trip, I couldn't recommend it more. My high school career would not have been the same without the opportunity Jesuit provided me through the service trip program.

By Palmer Montalbano
Staff Writer

Jesuit's instructions on procedure are usually superb; however, the best knowledge about surviving Jesuit High School is not found in a handbook or planner.

As we begin the new school year, here are some tips for reaching success at Jesuit.

One of the most important things to remember while at Jesuit is to walk on the right side of every stairwell and hallway.

This is especially true for the younger, smaller students as a senior may look upon your mistake of walking on the left and use it as an opportunity to scold or even manhandle you over to the correct side.

Another rule of grave importance is avoiding inopportune moments at Jesuit.

For example: if a student is aware of his incredulous long hair, he should be sure to avoid the discipline stairwell as well as the gaze of his homeroom teacher.

Oftentimes walking in a crowd can help the student blend in.

Sitting in the middle row on the side of a classroom without answering any questions

Thoughts
of a Blue Jay

Lastly, do not forget to have fun. Get involved in co-curricular activities.

There's a club or activity out there that will suit absolutely anyone's interest!

can keep a student in the shadows of authority's gaze.

If the student can strategically avoid a P.H. throughout a day, he has time to get his

hair cut that afternoon and be back on the path to success at Jesuit.

The best advice any veteran at Jesuit can give a younger student is become friends with everyone.

Meet and have a connection with every student in the school that you can.

Those students may one day be masters at Calculus, the best paper editors, and fantastic advice-givers.

Becoming friends with teachers can prove to be beneficial as well.

In fact, it is more important to become friends with the teachers in the classes you do not do as well in, rather than the classes you excel in.

That friendship can open up doors to advice and tricks to solve problems or use better word choice in papers.

Lastly, do not forget to have fun.

Get involved in co-curricular activities. There's a club or activity out there that will suit absolutely anyone's interest!

Jesuit is challenging, and in order to keep the mental state afloat, the student must search out joy in all his activities.

Good luck and have a great academic year.

A new Blue Jay's guide to survival