



The Blue Jay



Back to School 2014

Volume 87, No. 1

Songy new head coach

By Jerry Spencer
Sports Editor

The Jesuit football program begins its season with new leadership this year, as Coach Mark Songy returns to Carrollton and Banks.

Over the summer Coach Wayne Keiser announced his retirement after serving as head coach for the past seven seasons.

Following 31 years of busy schedules in coaching and teaching, Coach Keiser said he was ready to spend more time with his family.

In his tenure leading the team, Coach Keiser had an impressive 55-27 winning record.

Coach Songy is no stranger to Jesuit athletics. From 1992 to 1996, he served as head coach of the football team, and as an assistant from 1990 to '91, and again in 2002-03.

While this Brother Martin graduate (Class of '82) was also a head coach at his alma mater from 1997 to 2001, he maintained an association with Blue Jay football during his hiatus from coaching.

He was a radio broadcaster in recent years covering Jesuit games and has continued to keep his football skills sharp with his in-depth analysis that only a former coach could bring to the table.

Because of the suddenness of his appointment over the summer, Coach Songy enters the season with some major challenges.

He is armed, however, for a successful season due to his talent on the field with his players and off the field in his coaching staff.

The coach's expertise is found in his training of linemen, which can only better an already



Coach Mark Songy
Led team 1992-96

See SONGY, Page 5

Back to the Books



Coats and ties for new ID photos and fresh haircuts are sure signs that another academic year has begun. Just before the first day of school, Mr. Top Abshire explains the rules to incoming freshmen gathered for Book Day. For more pictures from the opening days of school, turn to page 6.



Mr. Billy Dwyer
Dies at 38

Dwyer's death is mourned

By Brady Stiller
Staff Writer

The Jesuit High School community begins the year mourning the death of Mr. Billy Dwyer, a gifted guidance counselor and mentor to countless students.

Mr. Dwyer died suddenly at his home overnight on July 9. He was 38.

"Billy was a very dedicated guidance counselor who loved working at Jesuit and counseling students," Mrs. Mary Favalora, director of guidance, said. "The students highly respected him and he was our beloved and revered colleague. We mourn his loss and will miss him tremendously."

In addition to serving as a guidance counselor, he was an assistant tennis coach. Earlier in the sum-

See DWYER, Page 3

Campus leaders hone skills at retreat

Organizations explore opportunities, improvements

By Patrick Fine
Editor-in-Chief

At the end of summer, more than 100 Blue Jays flocked to the Camp Abbey Retreat Center outside Covington for the first St. Francis Borgia Leadership Institute retreat.

There have been leadership seminars presented by Jesuit previously, but this was the first year that a retreat was made.

Officers of major clubs and organizations, underclassmen in position to become leaders, ranking boards and members of Student Council, along with other campus leaders attended.

The retreat began with a video presentation on leadership by Russian writer Alexandre Havard. Havard spoke about virtu-

Identifying strengths and weaknesses, leaders of key Blue Jay organizations sought creative ideas for improvements.

ous leadership and how good leaders are first molded from men with stellar characteristics, which includes, but is not limited to, virtue.

The group then proceeded to meet with its respective clubs and organizations. In

these meetings, the leaders pointed out their organization's strengths and weaknesses.

After these issues were identified, each organization came up with creative ideas for improvement.

In addition to the separate meetings, the groups did come together for larger presentations. The attendees of the institute learned about Jesuit's traditions, high points, and low points.

Mr. Mat Grau, Alumni Director, and Mr. Tom Bagwill, Director of Institutional Advancement, taught the students about ways to build from previous ideas and why some of the traditions at Jesuit are what they are.

With this in mind, the students received more detailed presentations on student life, spirituality, and service from Mr. Matt

See BORGIA, Page 4

Champs! Quiz Bowl wins national title

By William Fine
News Editor

The Jesuit Quiz Bowl Team had all the answers this summer, wrapping up a historic season winning the national championship.

The team consisted of now-graduated seniors Kevin Yokum, Ian Calamari, Stanley Dai, and Jack Caliva, coached by Mr. Ron Rossi.

Yokum, the team's captain, said, "It was great to know that our hard work had paid off and that we had finally won a national championship."

The hard work began when the Jays qualified for the finals by winning the New Orleans playoffs over Memorial Day weekend.

In the regional playoffs, the team had a perfect 9-0 record. It really wasn't tested until the regional finals against Paschal Christian.

The Jays were down 55-35 after the first period and did not

gain any points back in the second period, still down 120-100. In the third period, the 60-second round, the team finally found its groove, scoring 90 out of a possible 100 points, taking a 20-point lead into the finals.

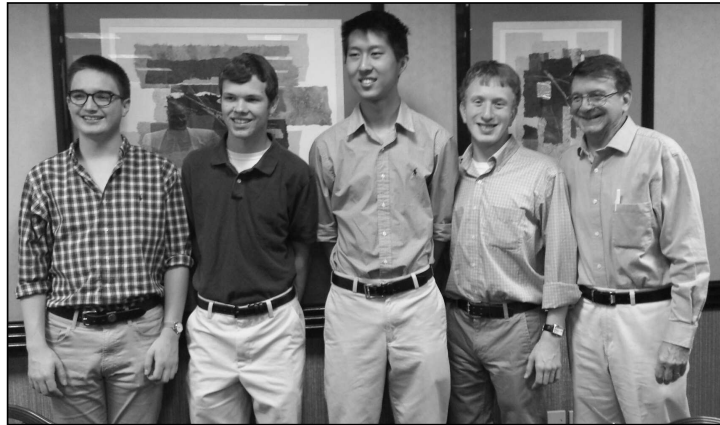
Paschal tied the score at 270 before Jesuit scored 65 unanswered points to win the regional championship.

The team then traveled to Chicago on June 9 to compete in a double elimination national tournament.

Three teams represented the regional winners from New Orleans, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

The Blue Jays beat Pingry from New Jersey, the team that knocked out the Jays the year before, twice to win the championship. Jesuit won the first game by 155 points.

The second game was a nail-biter in which the final score was 375-305. The team trailed after the first period by 45 points. In the second period, they fell behind by 85 points before turning things around to take a 30 point lead into half.



The Jesuit Quiz Bowl team captured its first-ever national championship this summer in Chicago. The winning team consisted of, from left, Jack Caliva, captain Kevin Yokum, Stanley Dai, and Ian Calamari. Coach Ron Rossi is at right.

After the half the Jays continued to fight in a back and forth contest and finally closed out the game.

Yokum said that these matches were tough but the main thing was to take a deep breath and find some questions that they

knew.

As a result, the Jesuit Quiz Bowl team became the first Louisiana team to ever be crowned national champions.

One member of the Quiz Bowl team also received prestigious individual honors. Yokum

was named the MVP of the tournament and inducted into the National Academic Championship Hall of Fame. When asked about his accolades, he said that the team winning was really what matters to him and the awards were just extra.

It's time to leave summer behind

By Kevin Credo
Opinions Editor

We all like the break that summer provides, but now, alas, it is over. The warnings came subtly. School supplies showing up in sales at every store. "Back to school" commercials started airing more and more frequently. We didn't want to accept it.

After two months of being off, the premise of just throwing leisure away and essentially having to "go to work" five days a week poses quite a challenge, and most students would be lying to themselves if they didn't admit to a certain chagrin regarding the end of summer.

It doesn't really matter if you're a senior with a letterman jacket or an eighth grader with an oversized Jesuit sweatshirt; we all seem to lament in some ways the beginning of the school year.

A lot of us, however, need to take a moment and think about the possibility that the thing we're concerned with so much might not actually be as bad as we make it out to be.

Leaving summer behind is difficult, and this article isn't meant to be just another one of



Father Donald Saunders, S.J., chats with freshman Aiden Roberts during lunch on the first day of school.

Thoughts of a Blue Jay

those easily applicable "you can do it" speeches that you've probably already heard. Nothing I can write will make your math quizzes easier. But the end of summer only seems like a hassle because that's how we imagine it.

Even when we look past our own aversion to returning, what does the world around us tell us about school? The back to school ads always make the return to work seem like some sort of grim chore that can only be made easier with the help of whatever product is flashing at you.

Television and movies often portray school as an unforgiving environment where your performance will be judged harshly. We start letting all of these statements form our mindset, resulting in needless worry.

That feeling is not going to go away easily. If you keep that "dreading the work" mindset well into the school year, you'll, not surprisingly, start to slack off in the classroom. Some guys tend to care about their fantasy football picks more than algebra problems. While that might be temporarily distracting, it can

mean that some of us use these things to sell ourselves short.

Diverting ourselves into hobbies might act as some sort of a wall to protect ourselves from the very fear of schoolwork that we have created. Maybe this is done out of a concern for how well we will perform. Maybe it's some sort of subconscious protest about having to leave the comforts of summer. Maybe we think our work is just boring. I don't know how each person works, but we must never set ourselves up for failure.

But are the students so much to blame? We all just want to do what we enjoy, and that's a part of being human. Some of us may adjust easily to our workload; others may face more challenges with this. If you happen to be in the latter group, maybe you could just plan to give yourself extra time to take up the work and responsibilities that the school year brings.

I can't write anything here that will make your responsibilities go away. I can only hope that we will try our best to be our best and leave it at that. If we can accept the duties we have been given, we might just learn how much we can achieve.

Dupre: Year's big plans rely on involvement

By William Fine
News Editor

Long before the first day of school, the Student Council and President Joseph Dupre were busily planning events, Joseph chatted with *The Blue Jay* about those plans and hopes for Jesuit this year.

The Blue Jay: What's coming up?

Joseph Dupre: We're really excited about continuing the themed football games. Also, we have officially named our student section The Gizzard - that's where Blue Jays grind up what they devour.

TBJ: How have you tried to bring junior and senior classes together as leaders of the school?

JD: I understood that it was going to be difficult to convince the senior class to place its trust in a rising junior. But many seniors have come up to me since the election and have expressed their support. Also, seniors will still very much be the leaders we look to. They will run pep rallies, help lead cheers, and continue to be the ones we look to as an example for spirit. And the junior class understands that. We're going to help the seniors in every way to promote Blue Jay pride.

TBJ: What's the biggest challenge for the year?

JD: For me, personally, my biggest challenge balancing time

among Student Council, wrestling, academics, family, and faith. For the Executive Board and the Student Council, our challenge is to build upon the school pride that was firmly established last year.

TBJ: What are you most looking forward to?

JD: I'm looking forward to the Back to School Dance and The #BlueJayRave the most. I can't wait for those dances. Also, I've heard that the Junior Kairos retreat is indescribable. I'm super pumped for that as well.

TBJ: What's the best Student Council experience you've had?

JD: During my eighth-grade year, the big pep rally before the Rummel game was unbelievable. It was "The Top 5 Greatest Moments in Sports" skit; and I had so much fun being a part of it.

TBJ: What is your most ambitious dream for this year?

JD: I've been striving for a state championship in wrestling. With some hard work I'll be able to win an individual state title, and the team can bring the State Championship hardware back to Carrollton and Banks.

TBJ: What would you especially like to say to the student body?

JD: Get involved! We can't bring you the year you want unless you make it happen. Getting involved with events, dances, themes, whatever. It makes the year so much more enjoyable. And one you'll hopefully never forget.

Blue Jay Band set for a rocking show

By Patrick Fine
Editor-in-Chief

The Blue Jay Band has performed at halftime shows, music festivals, and parades. This year, the band has a brand new show, "Rhapsody in Blue and White."

The show has musical selections ranging from an American jazz classic, an irresistible classical melody, and a rocking crowd favorite.

The band has recently completed its camp at Nicholls State University where the musicians learned all the music and choreography of the new show.

The band is coming off a banner year and is ready for new improvements. It recently acquired new marching tubas to replace the old and beaten tubas.

The band also has more members than ever before; having steadily grown to more than 90 today, compared to only 60, just five years ago.

The musicians also will be donning new blue and white coats this year, picking up the theme of the new show. The blue and white uniforms are coordinated in such a way that they will separate, come together, and morph in conjunction with the movements in the music. To top off the uniforms, the band will attempt to add LED lights to their

uniforms during the show to accentuate the movements and the different colors moving on the field.

None of the improvements matter, however, without the music. The band opens with George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." The band will switch tempos drastically as well as changing between swing and straight feels.

The richly melodic "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" by Rachmaninoff was made by taking Paganini's "Caprice No. 24" and inverting the notes. This slow and beautiful melody will be introduced by a lengthy trumpet solo by senior Matthew Stephens. It also features mellophone soloist Anthony Stoner and baritone soloist Kyle Selle.

To finish the show, the band will play Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." This song features all the intricate call and response between instrument groups with which the crowd loves to sing along. The arrangement includes the most recognizable and famous melodies while maintaining a constant driving rock feel.

The band also will attempt maneuvers that will challenge even the best marchers, spanning the field from one 15-yard-line to the other. After many hours of practice, the result will be a fun and satisfying show.



Members of the Blue Jay Band and their families pose for a photo near the border between Italy and Austria while on their summer German exchange trip with Clavius Gymnasium in Bamberg, Germany.

Music, food and football highlight trip to Germany

By Jason LaHatte
Features Editor

The Blue Jay Jazz Band brought a little touch of New Orleans to Germany this summer.

The band made its biannual trek to Bamberg, Germany, to perform with its Jesuit counterpart, the Clavius Gymnasium Band. The educational and cultural exchange program is now in its 15th year.

Each successive trip has grown in its scope and popularity. The first, in 2002, included 28 Jesuit musicians accompanied by four chaperones.

This year's journey drew 48 musicians along with 72 family members and chaperones, and included a 17-day, multi-country itinerary. The touring musical ambassadors saw the great cities of Italy, enjoying the art of Leonardo da Vinci in Milan, learning about the rise of the Renaissance in Florence, and riding gondolas in Venice.

The primary focus of the trip provides a unique and eye-opening cultural experience for the participants. In Italy, the group learned that Italian food is sometimes better served in America, and that contrary to the American belief that everyone in the world speaks English, they don't. Once in Germany, the group was delighted to chow down on meals filled with bratwurst and sauerkraut and more English speakers.

In Germany, the students were immersed in German culture, staying with German families

throughout the trip. Those families were the nicest people anyone could ask for. They fed us, washed clothes, and provided us much like their own families back home.

Staying with a German family showed us a completely different lifestyle. First off, there was no air conditioning, though even in summer it really wasn't needed. Secondly, they care a lot more than we Americans do about energy efficiency. I would walk into a room, turn on a light, go into another room for a second, come back, and the light would be off. Also, while the food is hearty, it isn't spicy at all.

The Blue Jays also experienced German sports, seeing firsthand the country's love for soccer. On our second night in Germany, many members of our group watched in Bamberg's town square the World Cup match between France and Germany. The square was packed to the brim.

"It was like being at Mardi Gras," junior Nicholas Fresneda said of the atmosphere on the square.

In October, the Blue Jays will return the hospitality of their German hosts when students from the Clavius Gymnasium return to New Orleans to perform with the Jazz Band. In addition to New Orleans culture and cuisine, they might experience the excitement of American football, something many of them are unfamiliar with.

"I know that it has a Super Bowl," said Kilian Pfannenmüller, one of our Bamberg hosts.

I wonder how "Who Dat" sounds in German?

Mr. Dwyer was soccer star at Jesuit and in college

Dwyer
Continued from Page 1

mer, he also spent six weeks tutoring participants in the Operation Upgrade program.

William Patrick Dwyer was born on Aug. 26, 1975. His history with Jesuit can be traced to his enrollment as a high-school student. During these years Billy played both soccer and tennis with exceptional talent, enough to be offered soccer scholarships to a number of colleges.

After graduating in the Class of 1994, he attended the University of Kentucky on an athletic scholarship. These college years were defined by many more soccer achievements. He also made the SEC Academic Honor Roll in 1998. Mr. Dwyer went on to receive his master's degree from the University of New Orleans.

Jesuit would soon call Mr. Dwyer back home. In 2003, he became one of the faculty as a guidance counselor. In 2008, he began a two-year stint to teach at-risk youth at the Good Shepherd School in downtown New Orleans, an educational ministry of the Jesuit southern Province. He returned to Jesuit to resume serving as a counselor in 2010.

Mr. Dwyer is survived by his son, William Michael Dwyer; his fiancé, Cate MacAllister; his parents, Frances and William Dwyer. He is also survived by his grandmother, Bea Lopinto; three sisters, Jennifer Amato, Ann Erath, and Theresa O'Connor; and several nieces and nephews.

Student glad he said 'Oui' to French trip

By Thomas Hellmers
Staff Writer

As Monsieur Benoit approached me in the hallway in early December, I had no clue what I was in for. He asked me whether I would like to go to France with some other students over the summer for an exchange program with Lycee Le Causou in Toulouse in the south of France.

I was sure I misheard something. I was not the greatest French student, so naturally this made wonder about Monsieur Benoit's sanity. He wanted me to go to a completely different country, where everyone speaks a foreign language, and live for a week with a family I had never met.

I am so glad I said yes.

Eight of us left for France the Friday after final exams, flying to Toulouse, where we met our host families.

The culture shock did not settle in until we all left the airport with our French-speaking families in eight different directions.

When I arrived at my host family's house, I knew that there would be some communication challenges, but they were so happy to have me and they did all sorts of nice things just to show me their country.

As the week went by, I went all around France with my friends from Jesuit while our hosts were at school.

We visited Lourdes and saw the grotto where our Blessed Mother Mary appeared to St. Bernadette.

We went to Carcassonne and toured the medieval town, which was complete with a Best Western.

We walked all over the streets of Toulouse, including Le Marché Victor Hugo, a huge fresh food market. At the end of our first week in France, our host families took us on vacation throughout the French countryside.

My family and I went to Biarritz, the surfing capital of Europe, a mere 30 minutes from the Spanish border.

Some of the other men on our journey went to the mountains of Spain, a vineyard in the countryside, and the beaches on the Southern coast of France.

During the last four days of our trip, we said goodbye to our host families and hopped on a train to Paris.

We spent the remainder of our trip on a whirlwind tour of the sites of the City of Lights.

We went to the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame Cathedral, and Sainte-Chapelle, one of the prettiest gothic style churches in all of Europe.

The postcard-worthy journey also included tours of the Palace at Versailles, Sacre Coeur Basilica, the Luxembourg Gardens, the Louvre, the House of Victor Hugo, the Champs-Élysées, the Arc de Triomphe, the Latin Quarter, and the River Seine.

After considering the effect of being completely immersed in French life and culture for two weeks, I realized that I could now hold more intricate conversations with the natives and appreciate the culture behind the language I am studying.

His dedication to giving students a boost is at core of Mr. Michalik

By Kevin Credo
Opinions Editor

Summer vacation is always eagerly anticipated by both students and faculty. But that doesn't mean that things came to a standstill through June and July at Carrollton and Banks. From the dreaded summer school to increasingly popular summer camps, Jesuit's campus was abuzz with activity this summer.

One of the most important and effective programs of the summer is run by Mr. James Michalik, who works throughout the year to ensure its success.

Operation Upgrade is one of Jesuit's lesser known methods of outreach to the community. Much like the Thanksgiving food drive and Jesuit's volunteer collaboration with the St. Bernard Project,

Teacher Feature

Operation Upgrade gives Jesuit students and faculty a chance to provide real Christian witness to our fellow New Orleanians — in this case by tutoring inner-city children over the summer.

As the chief supervisor of the program, Mr. Michalik has overseen its great success in expanding the educational opportunities of countless students over the years. Operation Upgrade receives many referrals from elementary schools across the city. It runs for about six weeks through the summer and some of its participants later have the opportunity to enroll at Jesuit. The program gives those students the extra help they need over the summer to be successful through the academic rigors of Jesuit.

In addition, the program



Mr. James Michalik
Theology teacher

offers Jesuit students a way to fulfill the community service hours requirement.

Once enrolled at Jesuit, the Upgrade alumni can still turn to Mr. Michalik through the Academic Support Program, which helps any students at risk

with tutoring and guidance.

With about 30 years of service as a teacher, Mr. Michalik is a longtime member of Jesuit's Theology Department faculty. Through both his classes and dedication to such programs as Operation Upgrade, and organizing the Friday hours of Eucharistic Adoration, he models the ideal of living out his faith for our community.

When Mr. Michalik isn't helping to better the community at Jesuit and beyond, he often works in standup comedy and is a published author. His popular novel, *Superhero Surtain*, is about a New Orleans boy's experiences with Hurricane Katrina.

Through all of his work giving back to both Jesuit and the greater New Orleans community, James Michalik truly embodies one of Jesuit's greatest goals: being a man for others.

Jays have many service opportunities

By Patrick Fine
Editor-in-Chief

As most students already know, one of the criteria that a Jesuit graduate is expected to meet by graduation is a commitment doing justice. One of the ways that Jesuit imprints this mindset upon its students is through service.

Jesuit students are encouraged to perform acts of service throughout their lives, however, in the summer between their junior and senior years, Blue Jays are required to complete 100 hours of service.

Rising seniors can fulfill their service obligation by attending one of many service trips.

These trips include going to Appalachia to help the poor and elderly attend to their land, houses, and animals in the remote mountain areas.

Some men go to countries like El Salvador and Colombia, where they build basketball courts, repair houses, speak with the locals, and provide other services that the

small, impoverished villages need. Most of these remote places have unreliable electricity, little to no heated water, and few modern-day comforts.

However, not all service projects are done in distant places. In fact, most of the

This year's new senior class will have performed more than 30,000 hours of service through their Jesuit careers.

work performed by Jesuit students is done in our own backyard.

Many students work at senior centers, summer camps for special needs children, or help kids with muscular dystrophy play ball. These students truly make a difference in the lives of many over the summer, and most will

use this experience as a springboard for more service in the future.

This year's new senior class will have performed more than 30,000 hours of service through their Jesuit careers.

Overall, the school gives even more. The Thanksgiving drive, Toys for Tots, and the Lenten mission drive, are all large service projects in which the entire school participates.

In addition, individual organizations like National Honor Society and the Sodality hold projects of their own. As much good that happens through these efforts, even more can still be accomplished.

Mr. Kevin Murphy, Jesuit's service director, issued a challenge over the summer to every club, team, and organization to complete at least one service activity this school year. Everyone from the Odd Instruments Orchestra to the Herpetology Club to the baseball team could commit to find at least one day to give to others.

If your group needs an idea of just what to do, check with Mr. Murphy, who said that he "receives calls every day from people who need help."

Summer retreat expected to strengthen leadership

Borgia
Continued from Page 1

Orillion, Mr. Jeremy Reuther, and Mr. Kevin Murphy respectively.

These meetings were fruitful. The Student Council pledged to do a better job with communication and use bulletin boards to help the student body become more involved.

Campus Ministry wants to find more consistency in hymns sung at Mass in order to increase participation.

The Student Ministry group also would like to modify the examen to give students a better

opportunity for prayer during the school day.

The National Honor Society will make sure all of its members are available to sign up for tutoring. The academic group also will have days devoted to certain subjects in which students who are particularly talented in one area can help on that subject's day.

The retreatants also had time for spiritual reflection and Mass was celebrated every day, and elements of the Spiritual Exercises were included in daily morning and evening prayers. There was quiet time for reflection and brainstorming ideas as well as time to share ideas with



Student Council President Joseph Dupre leads a presentation at the St. Francis Borgia Leadership Retreat, which was held this summer at Camp Abbey.

others. As always, there was a little bit of leisure time to reconnect with old friends after the summer break.

Overall, approval ratings for the program were fantastic. The program provided a much needed

time and space for planning before the year began, and gave three major organizations from three different sides of the school an opportunity to make a united effort for the betterment of the school.

Verbatim

*The Father
Raymond
Fitzgerald
edition*

"Let's just say that tomorrow is the zombie apocalypse"

"Curing leprosy is a nice party trick"

"You could do a lot worse than St. Peter, like Jack the Ripper"

"I will happily be obliged to speak to you about the care and feeding of zombies"

"If you don't know that Jesus rose from the dead by now, you might as well get your money back from Catholic schools"

JAYSON rallies new students



Our spirited mascot, Jayson, got brought orientation week to a rousing close at a pep rally for new students in the Traditions Courtyard.

Coach previously led team to state playoffs four times

Songy
Continued from Page 1

productive line and turn it into a near impenetrable wall.

This strong line should allow both the passing game and running game to flourish and cause a scoring nightmare for any opponent.

Coach Songy said that he is also very excited about returning as a head coach in the renowned Catholic League of New Orleans.

His eagerness to prove Jesuit's talent will help re-establish the Jays as a powerhouse football club, not only in the Catholic League but in the hunt for a state title as well.

Coach Songy's previous win percentage at Jesuit was well over .500.

No stranger to successful seasons, four of his five teams as Jesuit head coach made it into the playoffs against some of Louisiana's best teams.

While a coach is often associated only with his sport, Coach

Songy said he also is enthusiastic about returning to the classroom.

His teaching duties will include physical education and health.

He said he recognizes Jesuit's prominence as an educational institution first and an athletic body second.

Following graduation from Brother Martin High School, he continued his educational career at Louisiana State University.

At LSU, he attained his bachelor's degree in liberal arts and then went on to begin his coaching career at Brother Martin as an assistant coach for the Crusaders' football team (1982-1985) and the head soccer coach (1983-1985).

He also coached at Archbishop Shaw High School (1988-89).

This winning attitude will be sure to spread like wildfire to this year's Jays and result in great year of well-played football on both sides of the ball.

He and his wife, Jolene, have three daughters and live in Metairie.

Blue Jay football is primed to get back to winning ways

By Jerry Spencer
Sports Editor

After ending last year with an even 6-6 record, this year's Blue Jay football team is prepared to begin or, rather, recommence a previous chapter in Jesuit's long athletic history.

The Jays are led by Coach Mark Songy, who is returning to the school following retiring Coach Wayne Kaiser.

Coach Songy is ready to prove the Jays are a force to be reckoned with as they have matured and improved in many aspects on the field. After a rough but well-played first year, senior quarterback Trey Laforge is prepared to take the helm on offense to lead Jesuit's deadly passing assault. Laforge finished his first starting season with a near 2,000-yard season on 115 completions including 13 touchdowns. Laforge matured immensely as a passer not only during last season, but over the course of the summer as well.

The Jays' passing game is also aided by the ability of a talented and strong offensive line with experienced senior leaders Brad Gaudet and Jeff White. Jesuit's powerful offensive line, combined with Laforge's passing ability, creates a perfect environment for a scoring frenzy.

Another serious offensive threat for the Jays is the running game, which will constantly keep the opposing team guessing due to a diverse tailback core. Similar to Jesuit's past season, the Jays will be running by committee with familiar senior running backs Malcolm Ben, Chris Mills, and Charles Jackson.

Another back to worry about is senior fullback Michael

| 2014 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| vs. Ponchatoula (Sept. 5) | |
| vs. St. Paul's (Sept. 12) | |
| vs. Central (B.R.) (Sept. 19) | |
| vs. Pensacola (Fla.) (Sept. 26) | |
| Homecoming Game | |
| vs. East Jefferson (Oct. 3) | |
| Great American Rivalry | |
| vs. Holy Cross (Oct. 10) | |
| vs. Shaw (Oct. 18) | |
| vs. Rummel (Oct. 25) | |
| vs. Brother Martin (Nov. 1) | |
| vs. St. Augustine (Nov. 7) | |

McMahon whose powerful bulldozing allows the Jays to have a key factor in short yardage situations. Ben brings another great attribute to the Jesuit offense in his ability to make quick, hard cuts to confuse his would-be tacklers; and he also has the strength to break past tackles.

Additionally, Mills is also a crucial weapon due to his sheer speed and ability to quickly change speeds and accelerate back. Jackson's strength and his powerful, yet speedy, running is crucial to complete the Blue Jays' ground attack.

The offense, however, would not be complete without the strong receiving squad consisting of the towering senior tight end Foster Moreau and speedy junior wide receivers Kalija Lipscomb and Malachi Hull. The Blue Jay offense is primed for a dominating season with one of Jesuit's best offensive crews in years.

On the other side of the ball, Jesuit's wrecking crew consists of a tenacious defensive line led by veteran seniors Hunter Robert and Osman Torres. This line fea-

tures a blend of quickness and strength that can devastate opposing offenses.

The hard-hitting linebackers have grown since last season and developed into a fearsome group of defenders led by seniors Robert Lobrano and Mitchell Melito.

The Blue Jays' secondary features a large group of returning starters. Junior Jakirai Wiley and senior Justin Helm will return as Jesuit's shutdown cornerbacks. The "Knasty" ball-hawking senior safety Dillon Knight and junior safety Mark Beebe are set to continue the destruction of rival offenses. Seniors Harrison Daste and Billy McMahon are yet another danger at the nickelback position.

The Jays' defense will have a big challenge ahead of them, but their experience and determination should give them a huge advantage against a tough schedule filled with heavy-duty opponents.

Finally, the Jays are prepared to be a threat on special teams as well. Junior Crew Jacobs will continue to handle the kicking duties, which should prove to be a critical strength of this year's team given his experience and ability.

Jesuit's return game will also be just another weapon in the Jays' fully stocked arsenal. Junior cornerback Wiley and senior tailback Jackson will be back to return kickoffs for the Jays and will share the responsibilities on punt returns.

Therefore, the Jays are on track for another powerhouse year of LHSAA football and plan to be among the state's top contenders and possibly end Jesuit's more than 50-year drought for a state championship.

The Blue Jay Editorial Board Editor-in-Chief

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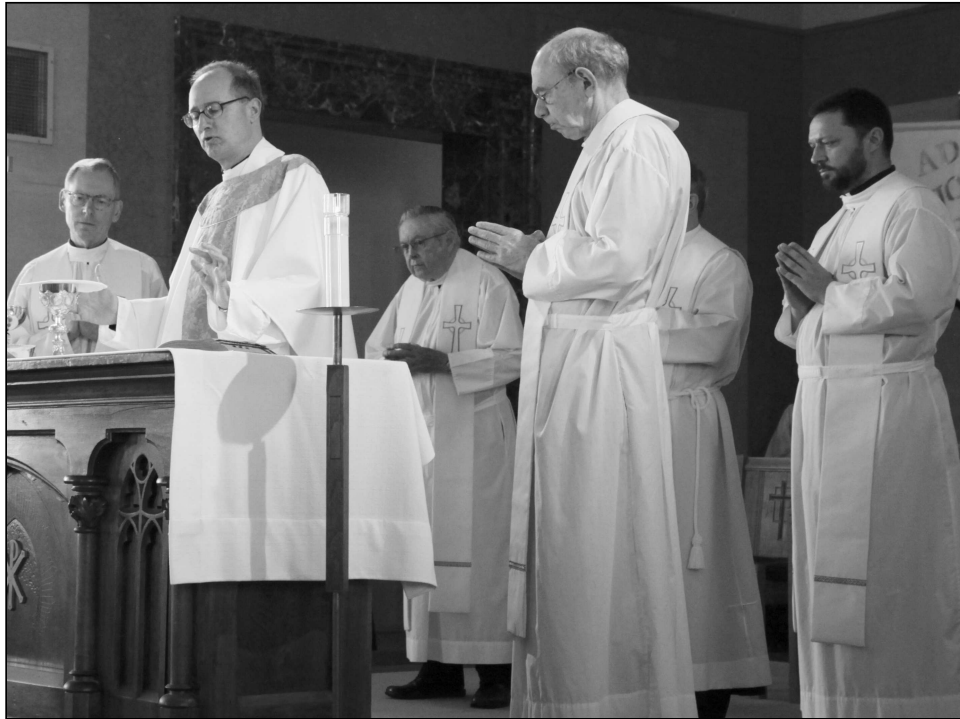
Do you have the 'write' stuff?

The Blue Jay welcomes new writers and photographers. If you'd like to be part of the team covering the exciting life and times of Jesuit High School, come to our next general assignments meeting during the second half of lunch on Sept. 2, in Room 304.

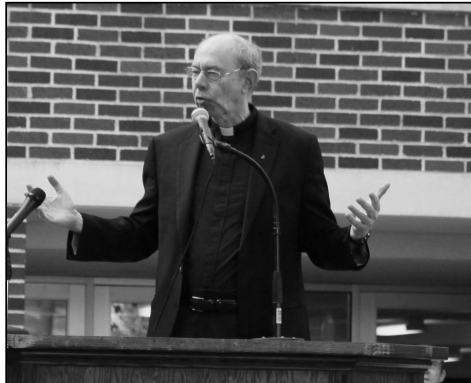
For more information, contact any member of the Editorial Board, listed at right, or the newspaper's moderator, Mr. Ted Mahne.

The Blue Jay is the student newspaper of Jesuit High School, New Orleans. All articles represent the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of The Blue Jay or Jesuit High School. The Blue Jay welcomes letters to the editor. All letters are subject to editing. All submissions should be sent to bluejaypaper@gmail.com.

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The bells are ringing again. It's time to keep track of numbered days and special orders. School is back in session! Blue Jays marked the first full day of school, fittingly, with a morning Mass commemorating the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. The Mass was celebrated by Father Raymond Fitzgerald, S.J., (pictured at the altar), and concelebrated with his brother priests of our resident Jesuit community.



Father Anthony McGinn, S.J., (above) who has returned as interim president, addresses the student body at the first morning assembly of the year. At right, senior Harrison Bond gives the 'J' pin to pre-freshman Matthew Nata at the annual Investiture Ceremony welcoming new Blue Jays.



Enjoying a refreshing pause during a busy first day of school, a group of Blue Jays catch up over lunch in the Commons. As our community heads into Labor Day weekend (a break already!), we are grateful for a successful kickoff to another academic year.