



THE Blue Jay

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NAMING THE STUART BROTHERS BRIDGE

**BY ANDREW CAVIGNAC '22
STAFF WRITER**

Pedestrian Walkway, Skybridge, Jaywalk. The bridge over Banks Street goes by many names. Recently, I sat down with the president of Jesuit High School, Fr. John Brown, to learn more about this new staple of Blue Jay life.

To start off the interview, Fr. Brown gave me some basic facts about the bridge and its construction. First of all, the bridge will be officially dedicated as "The Stuart Brothers Bridge," named after a group of Jesuit alumni who helped pay for the bridge: Walter '64, Robert '66, Klein '68, Sid '69, and Scott '77. Although it had only been in development for about two and a half years, Fr. Brown said that "people have been talking about the bridge for decades."

This dream finally came to fruition under former president Fr. Christopher Fronk's Minds and Hearts Enlightened Capital Campaign. The bridge was put in place in January 2020, but due to COVID-19's forcing Jesuit to close, it was not used until August of the same year.

See BRIDGE, Page 15



Pre-Virus Flashback: Spanish class masks from March 2019, when wearing masks was still fun.

HOW WE LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND EMBRACE THE VIRUS

**This Highly Sanitized Covid-19 Issue
Tells You Everything You Need to Know
About Hybrid Learning, Social
Distancing, and Ongoing Adjustments to
Our Blue Jay Way of Life.**

Full Coverage Inside.

FR. BROWN ON SCHOOL CHANGES

BY LOUIS BERCAW '22, NEWS EDITOR

After the first full week with all students returning to Jesuit, I interviewed Fr. Brown, the president of Jesuit High School, concerning this drastic change in the everyday life of Jesuit. The following relays his opinions on these new changes.

Fr. Brown emphasized the school's

small steps in returning to normalcy. Obviously, students still have to wear masks and stay six feet apart. Nevertheless, Fr. Brown noticed that the students seemed happier to be with all of their friends and extracurriculars.

See BROWN, Page 8

FOOTBALL PUNTS ON COVID

BY MICHAEL PAUL FINE '22, EDITOR IN CHIEF

During the summer, the football season was in danger. The LHSAA was coordinating with city and state officials to find a safe and efficient way to play high school sports.

See FOOTBALL, Page 16

-Established September 27, 1927-

THE BLUE JAY

The Voice of the Blue Jays

New Orleans, La.

“We have chosen this day, the 27th of September to publish our first issue of the BLUE JAY in commemoration of the FIRST ANNIVERSARY of the opening of our new JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL, and of the munificent gift of five hundred thousand dollars Scholarship Fund made by Mr. Henry C. Prevost on that same day to the Jesuit High School.”
-The Blue Jay Staff, Volume 1, No. 1, Page 2

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“At present it is not we who silence the press; it is the press that silences us.”
-G.K. Chesterton,
Illustrated London News,
“Censoring the Press,”
October 19, 1907



Hurricane Zeta drops by, Page 10

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Photo at left: An aerial view of Jesuit High School's minor roof damage from Zeta.

-Established September 27, 1927-



Left to right: Arts Editor Austin Hebert, Sports Editor Patrick Dowd, Editor-in-Chief Michael Paul Fine, Opinion Editor Luc Carriere, News Editor Louis Bercaw, Faculty Advisor Fr. Sean Salai, S.J.

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The blue jay on our front page banner is an original drawing by student artist Mason Wulff '21.

From the Editor

The Blue Jay Goes Hybrid: Our New Digital and Print Upgrades

By Michael Paul Fine '22
Editor in Chief

The newspaper has entered a new generation. With a new digital platform updated regularly, and a fresh print design, The Blue Jay newspaper will be able to connect current Jesuit students with alumni and the entire Jesuit community.

However, the newspaper is still rooted in tradition: at the end of each quarter the staff will publish a printed newspaper. This publication will include a combination of online stories with the classic Jesuit print design.

Our editors deserve praise for their hard work creating the new digital platform and reviving the Blue Jay publication.

I am junior Editor-in-Chief Michael Paul Fine '22. I am also a member of the marching, concert, and jazz bands as well as National Honors Society, Sodality, and Campus Ministry.

Managing Editor Kaden Oqueli-White '22 is a junior member of the Fencing and Creative Writing Club, J-Troupe, and National Honors Society. He is also interested in the field of astrophysics.

Arts Editor Austin Hebert '22 is a junior at Jesuit who participates in the marching, concert, and jazz bands as well as Sodality. For the newspaper, he will write poetry along with articles concerning theater, music, and other branches of art.

News Editor Louis Bercaw '22 is a junior and the drum major of the band. He has always enjoyed writing and is excited about working with the newspaper.

Sports Editor Patrick Dowd '23 is a sophomore who runs for the Cross Country Team and serves as a member of Model United Nations.

Opinion Editor Luc Carriere '22 is a junior who also runs for both the Cross Country and Track and Field teams. He enjoys reading, photography, and interactions with the student body and their interests.

Co-Media Editor Aidan Wang '25 is an eight-grader with big ambitions. He is on the quiz bowl and tennis team and hopes to be Editor-in-Chief and Student Council President one day.

Co-Media Editor John Dlugos '24 is a freshman running for the Cross Country and Track teams. He is also interested in drawing and artistry.

I am so excited about the upcoming school year and the future of the newspaper. We have a great, young staff that is passionate about writing and covering all things Jesuit. Also, if any students are interested in writing for the newspaper, please contact moderator Father Salai at the following e-mail: salai@jesuitnola.org or bluejaynewspaper@jesuitnola.org

The staff will highlight all activities regarding Jesuit student life. Upcoming stories include: teacher features, sports recaps, Blue Jays of the Month, and events in Jesuit's community.

I encourage all readers to check the website weekly for new stories. Also, please spread the word and share articles with family members and friends so that the newspaper can continue to grow.

Please visit us online at: <https://www.jesuitnola.org/co-curriculars/the-blue-jay-newspaper/>

The Fine Point



-Established September 27, 1927-

JESUIT WELCOMES NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

MORE THAN 20 NEW FACES REPLACE PEOPLE WHO TOOK EARLY RETIREMENT OR DEPARTED JHS FOLLOWING SPRING LOCKDOWNS

BY AIDAN WANG '25 AND STAFF

The pandemic of 2020 has caused many changes to our lives. One of them happens right within the walls of Jesuit High School, where a number of people have taken early retirement or moved on to other jobs since last spring's Covid-19 lockdowns ended classroom learning early.

For this 2020-2021 academic year we have a high of 23 new faculty and staff members in addition to two new faculty members, Daniel Augustin and Jeremy Reuther, who served the school in other capacities last year.

Mr. Augustin served as an Alumni Service Corps teacher last year and Mr. Reuther was director of communications before returning to the classroom as a theology teacher this year. Here are all of the new faces at Jesuit.

The Additions for the English Department this year are,

Mr. Mark Babin '01, a lover of fiction with fond memories of late Jesuit president Father Raymond Fitzgerald, S.J.

Mr. Nicholas Courtney, S.J., a Jesuit scholastic (seminarian)

from New Orleans and Loyola University graduate who is preparing for ordination to the priesthood. Mr. Courtney played football in middle school, studied in England after Loyola, and received an M.A. degree from Fordham University as part of his Jesuit formation. He came in October to replace Mr. Bob Roso, who decided to retire in the middle of the school year. He loves medieval philosophy.

Mr. Ethan Gilberti '16, who is also editing the literary journal *Calliope* and advising the fencing club this year. He participated in fencing as a student himself. He just graduated from college with his English degree last spring.

Dr. Ken Lota '06, who holds a doctorate in English and enjoys Wes Anderson movies.

Mr. Josh Bourgeois '13, who recently got married and bought a house.

The New Addition to the Art Department is, **Mr. Kyler Pisciotto '16**, who is also serving as a wrestling team coach.

New Additions to the Guidance Department are, **Mr. Cameron Eckholdt '09**, who has returned to counsel his fellow Blue Jays after studying as a therapist.



Some of the new faculty and staff this year. Here's a fun game: Try to identify each one based on this picture!

-Established September 27, 1927-

Mrs. Robin Rhodes, new eighth grade counselor, is a busy mom outside of school.

Mr. Nick Nguyen, new health and wellness counselor, who enjoys being at Jesuit despite graduating from St. Paul.

New Additions to the Modern Foreign Language Department are,

Sra. Rebeca Campos, the wife of alumnus Jacob Campos '13. She is also helping with the newspaper.

Sra. Kendall Gibson, who previously taught Spanish at the university level before coming to Jesuit this year.

Sen. Herbert Spurlock '14, whose Spanish studies included travel abroad and who enjoys challenging his students.

New Additions to the Science Department are,

Mr. Matthew Firmin '10, a man of mystery with an M.A. whom The Blue Jay will eventually corral for an interview.

Mr. Jeff Reuther '99, brother of Jeremy '01, who teaches chemistry and shares an office with newspaper and yearbook.

New Additions to the Social Studies Department are,

Mr. Jon Orillion '01, a JHS wrestling alumnus who joins his brother Matt '98 as a member of the faculty.

Mr. James Linn '06, who holds M.A. and B.A. degrees.

New Additions to Theology Department are,

Mr. Daniel Augustin '15, who was hired full time this year after serving last year in the Alumni Service Corps.

Mr. Roger Bacon '10, who has returned to his old high school to teach theology in his deep baritone voice.

Dr. Josh Brumfield, who holds a doctorate in theology and now teaches Catholic Social Thought to seniors.

Fr. Stephen Kramer, S.J., who previously taught at Jesuit in 2015-2016 as part of his formation for the priesthood. He was ordained in 2019 and is also serving this year as a wrestling coach. Originally from St. Louis, he graduated from the Jesuit high school SLUH, and also attended Saint Louis University. He is teaching Christian Vocations to seniors this year.

Fr. Sean Salai, S.J., also the newspaper advisor, a former newspaper reporter who is currently finishing a Doctor of Ministry degree in evangelization and digital media from The Catholic University of America. He teaches Christian Vocations to seniors and also writes for *America* magazine.

Mr. Paolo Taffaro, who is teaching at Jesuit this year as he discerns a call to the priesthood in the Society of Jesus.

Mr. Jeremy Reuther '01 has returned to the classroom as well as taken on a new administration role. The school website notes that he "has assumed the responsibilities of the Assistant to

the President for Mission. Aimed at forming faculty and staff who are enthusiastic participants in the school's mission, the role will develop programs to enhance faculty and staff performance, Jesuit identity, and curriculum.... Jeremy has been with Jesuit for 15 years, serving in a variety of capacities as a theology teacher, campus minister, department chair, and most recently as the communications director. His involvement with the Ignatian Identity Team, faculty retreats, and Lenten formation programs for faculty will be assets for his new role of building relationships with faculty and staff to advance the mission of the school."

Finally, the New Additions to the Communications Department are,

Mr. Christian Bautista '06, whom the website says "is joining the Jesuit administration to serve as the school's new Director of Communications, filling the position most recently held by Jeremy Reuther. Bautista will oversee internal and external communications to ensure that the mission of Jesuit is evidenced in all print and digital publications, press releases, and other messaging and media associated with Jesuit High School. He will be interfacing with many components of Jesuit High School from admissions to academics to athletics to ensure excellent representation and mission alignment for all of the school's endeavors. Holding a M.Ed. in school leadership from Harvard University as well as two undergraduate degrees in education (B.M.E.) and music (B.A.) from Louisiana State University, Bautista returns home to Jesuit after almost 10 years as a classroom teacher, band director, policy analyst, and assistant development director. He has worked in various educational roles from Metairie to Boston to Cambodia, and he has experience in a variety of Catholic, public, and charter school settings."

Mr. Myles Kuss '16, who graduated from Louisiana State University last spring and specializes in sports journalism. The school website notes: "The Development Office is also proud to add Myles Kuss '16 to the institutional advancement team. He replaces Jack Cullotta '13 as Communications and Alumni Assistant, and in this role he will be serving Jesuit High School in areas including event coordination, alumni relations, and media content creation. A graduate of Louisiana State University with B.A. in journalism, Kuss will be contributing to both the communications and alumni offices. At LSU, he was a columnist for the Daily Reveille, a producer for Tiger TV, a cohost for KLSU, and a sports clerk for the *Advocate* for two years.

In addition, **Coach Mark Songy** has taken on a new job, allowing **Scott Bairnsfather** to take over the football team. The website states that Songy "has been named the new Prefect of Discipline for Jesuit High School. Moving across Banks St. from his position as Head Football Coach, Songy...holds a B.A. from Louisiana State University and has accumulated over 38 years of experience in education as a classroom teacher and as a coach. Held in high esteem by students, faculty, and parents alike, Songy accepted this position with the following statement: 'I am very excited about the opportunity to serve in this new and important role at Jesuit High School, a place which continues to mean so much to me both personally and professionally. While I will certainly miss my role as Head Football Coach, I realize that this opportunity will allow me to work closely with our tremendous faculty and especially with a much larger part of our student body. I'm grateful for such an opportunity to be able to assist in carrying out the mission of Jesuit on an even larger scale.'"

Coronavirus restrictions on normal school life have made it difficult to get to know all of these new faces this fall. Much of the above information for this article was compiled from publicly available sources and based on email interviews. While we weren't able to interview all of these teachers in depth at the time of this article's publication deadline, they will be featured in future issues as we all get to know them better at Jesuit.

Mr. Nicholas Courtney, S.J. a Jesuit scholastic (seminarian) from New Orleans, joined the English Department in October. Here is a photograph of him giving a Lenten Lecture in Bobet Hall at Loyola University New Orleans, March 3, 2018.



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

BACK TO THE FUTURE?

In honor of this year's redesigned newspaper, here is the front page of the original Blue Jay issue. Originally published monthly, the Blue Jay commemorated Jesuit High School's move to the corner of Carrolton and Banks from its original home at Immaculate Conception Jesuit Church on Baronne Street downtown, and followed several earlier student publications from the 1800s.



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Campus Ministry
Praying with Covid-19



Fr. Kevin Dyer, S.J., led a series of socially distanced adoration and benediction services at the freshman retreat in October.



Fr. Dyer plastic-wrapped confessional grates in the third-floor Chapel of the North American Martyrs for freshman retreat in October.



Pop Quiz: Were these two students making the Sign of the Cross or tugging at their masks?

(Answer: They were tugging at their masks.)

Favorite
Quote and
Number?

*Augustin and Lulich Take
Positions on the Big Issues*

KALEB TROMBLEY '25
STAFF WRITER

AUGUSTIN'S FAVORITE QUOTE

Daniel Augustin '15, a teacher of Christ in Scripture, says: "One of my all time favorite quotes is by C.S. Lewis from *The Screwtape Letters*. He says, 'For the present is the point at which time touches eternity.' I find it an amazing quote because it shows that when we are fully engaged in the present moment, we actually experience an aspect of God."



LULICH'S FAVORITE NUMBER

Kelly Lulich, an introductory algebra teacher to the eighth grade, says: "My favorite number is 8. I like that it is even, it has multiple factors, but is still one digit, and my birthday is February 6th, which makes $2+6=8$."



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BROWN, Continued from Page 1

Also, having all students at school every day puts them in a more consistently academic mindset, as opposed to the more relaxed mindset of hybrid learning.

This academic mindset also contributes to the accelerated pace of learning that comes with daily school. When asked about how the change would affect teachers, Fr. Brown stated: “Though our teachers adapted well to hybrid learning, some of them have been working in a classroom for decades. They will be able to teach more material and to teach better with all of the students at once.”

Additionally, with all students present, more extracurriculars can begin to meet, as evidenced by the Extracurricular Rush Day, which took place October 22. Every student coming every day finally alleviates scheduling issues that plagued many clubs and organizations. These extracurriculars are an essential part of student life, and having every student at school galvanizes their return to normalcy as well.

Despite these many positive aspects of full-time learning, not all

is well at Jesuit. There is still the outstanding issue of contact tracing students who have had COVID. Fr. Brown would like to commend Mr. Matt Orillion '98, Jesuit's new COVID director, for his diligence in finding every student who has contacted someone with the virus. Although Fr. Brown does not want to send anyone home with the virus, contact tracing is the only way to keep the school safe.

Regarding the other issues (such as space for students to congregate outside of class), Fr. Brown said, “I am proud of what we have done to keep the school safe, and I am confident that we will meet the new challenges that might face us.” Despite some setbacks, the return to school has been a success, and with the new civic guidelines, Jesuit can come even closer to returning to normalcy.

One final change this semester seems worth noting. Father Brown was officially announced as the 31st president of Jesuit High School of New Orleans on September 28, 2020. Following a national search that took place over several months, the decision was happily announced by Jesuit's Board of Directors in collaboration with the U.S. Central and Southern Province of the Society of Jesus.

“I am proud of what we have done to keep the school safe, and I am confident that we will meet the new challenges that might face us.”
-Fr. John Brown, S.J.



CAMPUS CHANGES

NEW CONSTRUCTION



Despite Covid-19 and Hurricane Zeta, one of the most visible changes on campus continues to be the construction of the new administration building, seen here in a photo from November.

Construction remains on schedule for this new building that will contain the president's office, admissions, alumni affairs, communications, and other essential services for campus visitors.

This new building will become the main campus entrance for non-student related business.

CAMPUS CHANGES

OCTOBER RUSH DAY

Although clubs did not meet during first quarter due to hybrid learning, Rush Day finally occurred in the Roussel Building during October early into the second quarter.

Photo at right: Editor in Chief Michael Paul Fine and other editors meet students at the Blue Jay newspaper rush fair table.



-Established September 27, 1927-

TEACHER FEATURE

MRS. LESLIE MERRITT

“At one point in my life, I thought I was being called to be a Dominican nun....”



Mrs. Merritt

JOHN DLUGOS '24 MEDIA EDITOR

Mrs. Leslie R. Merritt is a math teacher for Algebra 1 and Geometry Honors. She is also the moderator for Foosball Club, Chi Alpha Mu, and Acoustic Guitar Club. Mrs. Merritt attended Central High School in Morgan City, LA, attended LSU, but finished her college days at Loyola University.

She has been teaching at Jesuit on and off for 30 years, but she had a few jobs before coming here. Mrs. Merritt stated: “Before graduating college, I was a receptionist at a medical office, a lifeguard, and a swim coach.”

She continued, “After getting a degree in education, I taught at McMain and Dominican before coming to Jesuit.”

Question: Why did you decide to be a teacher?

Answer: At one point in my life, I thought I was being called to be a Dominican nun, and they were the Order of Preachers, so I changed my major from nursing to education.

Q: What is your favorite part of your math class to teach during the school year?

A: I like to watch students think and put all the pieces together. For that reason, I like factoring in Algebra I and proofs in Honors Geometry.

Q: What is your favorite number or a number you like to use for examples and test questions?

A: 23...it was my number when I played volleyball in high school. I did not mind sharing it with Michael Jordan or Pierre Thomas :)

Q: What would you say is the most difficult part about being a math teacher?

A: It hurts my heart that some of my students believe they do not like math...and the fact that I must put a grade on everything.

Q: What would you say was the hardest part about teaching this year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic?

A: Because of the hybrid schedule in the first quarter, it took me a while to get to know my students. I am still having difficulties since many of my quiet students are tucked away under their masks.

In addition, I miss letting my students do group work. It is fun to see the “Men for Others” in action when they are helping each other with a difficult math problem.

Blue Jay Spirit is Back

HOW JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULARS HAVE COPEd THIS FALL WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

MICHAEL PAUL FINE '22
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Looking back at the transition from first to second quarter this fall, I want to highlight how extracurricular activities and organizations adapted on campus to the pandemic. With Jesuit initially on a hybrid schedule during first quarter, most clubs were unable to meet in person, coordinate activities, and recruit new candidates. However, all students returned to campus at the start of second quarter on October 12, allowing student life to begin again.

First, Jesuit's Student Council worked tirelessly to provide a fantastic first quarter of school. Fighting through social distancing protocols, Student Council entertained students with Welcome Week activities, podcasts, and class competitions. The executive board looked forward to hosting more events and promoting school spirit.

Second, most athletic teams began practicing and playing games. The football team defeated Helen Cox with a controlling victory of 45-6 on October 9 to start the virus-shortened season. Although capacity was fifty percent, Blue Jay Spirit was at an all-time high, and the student body was anxious with excitement for the delayed season.

Cross Country started their season with a second-place finish in the Mount Carmel Invitational Race, beating city rivals Brother Martin and Holy Cross. The Golf Team also had a strong start to their season with victories over Holy Cross, St. Augustine, and Rummel.

See SPIRIT, Page 11



Editor in Chief Michael Paul Fine '22 talks with students about the Blue Jay newspaper at rush fair in October.

-Established September 27, 1927-

SCIENCE CORNER

A Breakthrough in Black Holes

By Kaden Oqueli-White '22
Managing Editor

This year's Nobel Prize for physics has been awarded to three scientists, with British cosmologist Roger Penrose receiving half, and the other half being split between German astrophysicist Reinhard Genzel and American astrophysicist Andrea Ghez for their work on black holes. Among the various fascinating cosmic events in our universe, black holes have remained by far the most interesting and elusive.

These strange cosmic enigmas, formed from the spectacular death of supermassive stars, are so incredibly dense that light cannot escape their gravity, and scientists have long struggled to determine concrete evidence of their existence. The extreme gravitational environment of black holes has fascinated scientists since Einstein first conceived it, and even he deemed them too enigmatic to be physically possible.

Though various astrophysicists have indirectly determined the mathematical existence of black holes, such as Chandrasekhar in his work on white dwarfs, the question of how they can exist in reality outside Einstein's theory of relativity remained unclear for most of the 20th century. That is, until Roger Penrose and Stephen Hawking demonstrated that the formation of black holes were implied in the foundations of relativity, making them consistent with Einstein's theory.

Penrose proved definitively that these cosmic objects were indeed possible outside of mathematics, yet it fell to observational astrophysicists to discover and observe these phenomena in the physical universe. That's where the work of Genzel and Ghez made the difference. In the 1990's, with each of the scientists heading a research team, they observed the heart of the Milky Way using specialized infrared telescopes.

Odd anomalies in the orbits of stars near the center of the galaxy, as well as an invisible source within the center of the orbits pointed to an object far more massive than any planet or star. This source had a mass equivalent to four million suns. Thus,



Black holes can grow to the mass of about 50 million suns, such as supermassive black holes.

the two researchers concluded that such a massive object could only be a supermassive black hole nested deep in the heart of the Milky Way.

Their findings have been confirmed by observations made using the Hubble Telescope, suggesting that such black holes actually lie at the centers of most galaxies currently observable. These men have served

***“THE FUTURE FOR
BLACK HOLES,
AS THEY SAY, IS
BRIGHT!”***

-Sheperd Doeleman

as pioneers in the observation and understanding of a phenomena considered impossible just almost a century ago. As Sheperd Doeleman, founding director for the global Event Horizon Telescope, states, “The work celebrated by the Nobel Prizes is transformative, and the future for black holes, as they say, is bright!”

WEATHER

HURRICANE ZETA'S AFTERMATH

By Zane Madi '22, Staff Writer



After five grueling hours of blistering wind and rain, it was finally over. It was Hurricane Zeta. Hurricane Zeta battered the American South with violent winds weeks ago, ruining homes and leveling trees and leaving around two million million people in the states affected without power.

The storm made landfall on the coast of Louisiana as a Category 2 hurricane in the afternoon on October 28th. As soon as it was safe, officials on the coast began to deal with the damage and deployed workers to begin restoring power. This record-setting hurricane is one of five to strike Louisiana in 2020.

Following this hurricane, after a few days without power, Jesuit, unlike many other schools in New Orleans, regained electricity and opened that week on Friday.

Although this was so, many students simply could not make it to school due to road damage or even access the internet. Thankfully, most of the students were able to recover in around a week after the storm, and, most importantly, everyone remained relatively unscathed. Similar to our state, Jesuit was able to bind together and maintain our determination and pursuit of knowledge, even under difficult times, even amid a pandemic.

-Established September 27, 1927-

SPIRIT, Continued from Page 9

Furthermore, other sports teams, such as basketball and baseball, began conditioning for their upcoming seasons in the winter and spring. Wrestling started practicing. For updates on intramural sports, such as ping pong and flag football, check the Student Life Canvas page and the Jesuit website for registration and schedules: <https://jayson.instructure.com/courses/4966/pages/intramural-headquarters>

The Jesuit Blue Jay Band and Jayettes put on a fantastic first field show at the Helen Cox game on Friday night, Oct. 9. The Band and Jayettes entertained the crowd with a performance to the Panic at the Disco song, High Hopes. Concerning the rest of the season, Drum Major Louis Bercaw '22, also The Blue Jay's News Editor, said: "I'm excited to work with the whole bad again. Obviously, safety is the priority, but we can work through any restrictions and give just as good a [field] show as any other year."

The MCJROTC also began training activities for the year's events and competitions. The MCJROTC color guard represented Jesuit with confidence and poise on national television during the National Anthem before the New Orleans Saints' first football game.

Academic Games gave a stellar performance at its most recent competition. The team played Propaganda, a game in which students discern several techniques used by advertisers, politicians, or journalists. The Blue Jays placed first among all teams, with their team consisting of Christian Smith, Wade Rogers, Mason Becker, Max Bartlett, and Dylan Patel. Additionally, freshman Charlie Garrity placed first individually, and freshman Christian Smith placed second.

Finally, since all students returned in the second quarter, many club moderators began to restart key organizations throughout campus. Sodality and Campus Ministry started meeting weekly to plan for upcoming retreats and fundraisers.

National Honors Society decided to restart the afterschool tutoring program as well as provided other services to Jesuit students and those in the New Orleans community. The Pro-Life Club began meeting weekly to challenge the problem of abortion in the New Orleans area and elsewhere in Louisiana. Retreats and school masses resumed with socially distanced regulations.

The Phileletic Society and the J-Troupe began preparations for future plays and productions, including Brigadoon which was ended early due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Many members worked tirelessly on sets and props for the school year, planning a fall production of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in honor of this year's fierce hurricane season that got moved to December 3-5. The music department's Christmas concert was moved outdoors and to December 19.

As students returned in the second quarter, clubs and organizations restarted planning events for the year. Students were encouraged to stay involved and join Blue Jay Student Life. To find more information about other co-curricular activities, such as the Paintball, Fishing, or Video Games Club, please check the school website as well as daily announcements at school: <https://www.jesuitnola.org/co-curriculars/>

Due to coronavirus event restrictions, the Philelectic Society's production of *The Tempest* was rescheduled this fall to December 3-5 and the music department's Christmas concert was pushed back to December 19. The Christmas concert was also moved outdoors onto the school's courtyard.

LAGNIAPPE



Despite the coronavirus, Jesuit High School conducted its annual Thanksgiving turkey drive on Wednesday, November 25, delivering food to needy families. Philelectic Society director Ms. Kate Arthurs created this chart for her homeroom's donations.

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MUSIC DURING COVID-19

Fine-Tuning the Blue Jay Band's Virus Response

By Austin Hebert '22
Arts Editor

While the coronavirus pandemic has affected many lives in many ways, it has severely impacted musicians' lives, largely for the worse.

During the lockdown and quarantine period, the venues where musicians played were shut down. Now, although some of these places have reopened, restrictions on playing wind instruments remain. But they are weakening.

In the Jesuit High School Band, we only play outside, maintaining social distancing and putting bell covers on the wind instruments.

In the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra, a small orchestra in which I play on Saturdays, we are no longer allowed to play in our normal room at Loyola University; instead, we now play at the UNO amphitheater because it is open-air, and it allows for spreading out between the musicians. This orchestra has also manufactured face masks with a hole and a flap covering to be able to keep masks and still play.

In addition to

these high school groups, colleges and professional groups have also been slowed by the Covid-19. Both Tulane and Loyola transitioned to Zoom meetings for their music classes at the end of last semester, but have recently begun transitioning to in-person learning.

Also, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra has recently begun to have Zoom concerts. Since much of their audience generally consists of the elderly, many of whom are unfamiliar with Zoom, attendance has not been what it once was.

Covid-19 has certainly impacted musicians for the worse; however, situations are improving for musicians on the whole.

Photos from before Covid-19: the original 1930-1931 band, the 1981 band, and 2019 band.



ARTS



The band on Oct. 9. Both Jesuit High School marching band members and their horns wore masks on the field this fall to prevent any rogue Covid-19 droplets from spreading through the sonic force of their mighty musical vibrations.



"To perform like a champion tomorrow, practice like a champion today." -Mr. Joseph Caluda '79, Band Director

-Established September 27, 1927-

SCARY MOVIE REVIEWS

BY HUNTER HOFFMANN '21
FILM CRITIC

With the holiday season in full swing, I thought it would be the proper time to review some horror movies!

HUBIE HALLOWEEN (2020)

Adam Sandler's latest outing with Netflix sees him playing Hubie Dubois, the town misfit of Salem, Massachusetts. Every year on Halloween, Hubie patrols the town making sure the citizens of Salem are having fun while, most importantly for him, remaining safe. Because he is such a stickler for even the pettiest of rules every year, the police and the rest of the town have begun to disregard Hubie. As a result, when people in Salem begin to go missing, no one believes Hubie, so he must take matters into his own hands to find the missing townsfolk.

In the past, when movies starring Adam Sandler have come out on Netflix, many people dismissed them as low-effort cash grabs. However, since his starring role in 2019's *Uncut Gems*, it seems as if Sandler has worked his way back into the favor of the public eye. Although it is far from perfect, *Hubie Halloween* gives fans ample chance to appreciate their reinvigorated, or newfound, fandom for Adam Sandler.

The humor in this movie includes the most basic forms of comedy one can find in any Adam Sandler movie (he even does his accent from *The*

Waterboy). However, what *Hubie Halloween* has that other Sandler movies of recent years lack is a surprising amount of heart. Instead of our soup-loving protagonist having to learn from the people around him throughout the film, the other characters in the movie must learn to appreciate Hubie and finally realize his worth.

If you are a fan of Adam Sandler and want to turn your brain off for ninety minutes to a movie with a pleasing Halloween aesthetic, I would recommend *Hubie Halloween*.

Rating: 7/10.

QUICK MOVIE REVIEWS

THE INVISIBLE MAN (1933)

One of the many early entries in Universal's classic monsters catalogue, *The Invisible Man*, starring Claude Rains in his debut on the American big screen, depicts the story of scientist Jack Griffin who, after taking experimental drugs to turn himself invisible, is driven to insanity.

Based on H.G. Wells' novel of the same name, *The Invisible Man* uses both impressive special effects (especially for 1933) and an interesting concept to craft a movie for those who enjoy the bizarre and outlandish in their viewings. One could attempt to pick this movie apart for a few minor plot conveniences, but overall, it provides a fun and unique

experience for the viewer.

Rating: 8/10

HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL (1959)

Starring the great Vincent Price, *House on Haunted Hill* sees five strangers mysteriously invited to a party by the wealthy Mr. Frederick Loren (played by Price) at a house which is notorious for murder. However, there's a catch. If a guest can spend the entire night in the house, he or she will be awarded \$10,000 by Mr. Loren.

At a brisk seventy-five minutes, this film carries a fun and self-aware attitude, never taking itself too seriously, and the plot does not stop moving, never allowing the viewer to get comfortable. What starts as a night of survival filled with ghosts and ghouls quickly evolves into a murder mystery story line. The ending of the movie is packed with fun practical effects, multiple plot twists, and the witty final line of the movie which, entertainingly enough, decides to break the fourth wall.

Rating: 8/10

MOM AND DAD (2017)

In this horror-comedy starring Selma Blair and Nicolas Cage, a suburban community is hit by an odd epidemic which makes parents feel sudden impulses to murder their own children. This plot may seem far-fetched and slightly off-kilter, but it is used in a satirical and humorous manner to depict the repressed lives of suburban parents.

Although maybe not for all, this film brings a tone and aesthetic to the screen unlike any I have seen before. At its start, the audience is immediately aware of the hyperbolic depiction of the two main characters, fed up with their boring suburban lives which rarely consist of anything other than taking their kids to school and going to work. Director Brian Taylor uses this obscene plot of parents murdering their own children to satirize suburban life by using it as a device of symbolism for the parents finally breaking free and having something interesting happen in their lives.

Rating: 7/10



WE RECOMMEND ADAM SANDLER'S *HUBIE HALLOWEEN*

-Established September 27, 1927-

Blue Jay of the Month

Congratulations to Tripp Haddad for being this issue's Blue Jay of the Month.

By Harrison Simeon '22, Staff Writer

To start the school year, I figured many students would want to know what responsibility comes with the prestigious role of the student body president, especially during a school year so out of the ordinary. So, I sought out to interview Tripp Haddad '21, the honorable senior elected to that very role. After a brief discussion about his day over the chatter of after-school dismissal, which he described as "pretty stressful, [with] a bunch of quizzes," I knew to start my interview.

I decided to start with more casual questions about his individual student status. As well as obviously being the student body president and head of the student council, Tripp is also on the varsity baseball team.

His favorite teacher is Coach Storm and favorite subject is World History, which he describes as "pretty interesting." He hopes to attend either Notre Dame or Wake Forest University next fall on a business major. He loves the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans.

Next, I asked some more substantial questions, consisting mostly of his responsibilities as president and various experiences as a senior.

Q: What were the student council's plans for such an unconventional year?

A: "At least in the beginning, the executive board knew most events were going to be socially distant. Therefore, we had to do a lot of videos, like the videos posted on Canvas or the water balloon idea during welcome week. We were just trying to come up with stuff to remain socially distant."

Q: What is the best part about leading the school and being the student body president?

A: "I get to interact with people I don't usually get to interact with; being president, I got



TRIPP HADDAD TAKES A LEAD FROM SECOND BASE IN A GAME AGAINST ASCENSION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S GATORS

to meet a lot of seniors and underclassmen from all areas of interest."

Q: What is something interesting that the president does behind the scenes that the average student may not know about?

A: "I've had to host a few Zoom meetings for student council, which I think is interesting. I had to come to school on a lot of my off days to paint banners or film videos. It may not be something very appealing but is part of the job."

Q: What would you want to see, experience-wise, by the end of the year at Jesuit?

A: "I want to make people enjoy coming here more and have a lot of school pride and spirit. I want to see that, by around the second semester, people begin to take pride in being a Blue Jay."

Q: If you were to give one piece of advice to an eighth grader, right now, what would it be?

A: "Get involved. Make a lot of friends and branch out; it will make your experience that much better. The second part of advice I would give is don't worry about grades so

much, focus on the experiences rather than on the numbers. I think it'll pay off; you will appreciate that a lot more in the long run."

I thanked Tripp for his time and we both went on our ways, ending our respective school days and looking forward to an unusual year filled with possibility. Just in that brief interview, Tripp showed the leadership qualities that prove him to be a caring and hard-working student body president, a man for others, and a great Blue Jay of the Month.



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Bridge
Continued from
Page 1

*In the end, Fr. Brown
confessed that he
doesn't know "how we
ever lived without" the
Pedestrian Walkway.*



Jesuit alum and city councilman Joe Giarrusso '94 saw the bridge controversy as an opportunity to bring Jesuit and its neighbors together to have a much-needed conversation about quality-of-life issues for residents. This resulted in very positive cooperation for neighborhood projects and compromise regarding the bridge. Eventually the city council voted unanimously to give air rights to Jesuit to complete construction. Fr. Brown was very pleased to have reached this compromise and said, "When Jesuit considers its neighbors' best interests, it's in everybody's best interest."

The new bridge, which is high enough for traffic and complementary to the oaks which surround it, has made Jesuit High School a safer and more efficient place. Jesuit no longer has to let students out early, use a crossing guard, cancel P.E. on rainy days, or most importantly, leave the first floor entrance to the Roussel Building and Benson Arena unlocked. In the end, Fr. Brown confessed that he doesn't know "how we ever lived without" the Pedestrian Walkway.

Fr. Brown also expressed his gratitude to the benefactors of the Minds and Hearts Enlightened capital campaign, without whom its completion would not be possible. The pedestrian walkway has made Jesuit a better place and proven itself as a necessary aspect of life at Jesuit.



CROSS COUNTRY
DOMINATES

Coach Rudy Horvath '83 once again had his cross country team running on all cylinders this season.

SPORTS

CROSS COUNTRY RUNS
TO VICTORY

TEAM PROVIDES MULTIPLE FALL HIGHLIGHTS

PATRICK DOWD '23
SPORTS EDITOR

*Jesuit Cross Country Team Poised Again to
Win State Title*

After strong performances at their district and regional meets, the Jesuit cross country team looked to continue their success at the Division 5A State Meet. At the district 9-5A meet, the Jays came out victorious with an almost perfect score of 18. In a cross country meet, each runner scores based on their finishing position, and the team with the lowest total scores of their first runners wins (the lowest possible score being 15, with a team's runners in places 1-5). Jack DesRoches '23 finished first overall, followed closely behind by Jack Wallace '21. The top five was rounded off by Morgan Hebert '22, Lucas Sampedro '24, and Michael Vocke '24. The team was triumphant over city rivals Brother Martin, Holy Cross, and Rummel.

In the following week's regional meet, the team placed third, just trailing behind both Brother Martin and Holy Cross. The team was led by Stephen Peterman '21, with Patrick Dowd '23 finishing second for the team. Also scoring were Donovan Musser '21, Chris Dehart '21, and Patrick Garvey '24. The team is looking to win the state meet in Natchitoches on Tuesday, November 17.

At the Division 5A State Cross

Country Meet, the Jays placed second only behind Catholic High School of Baton Rouge. The Jays fought hard, but fell slightly short at the end. The Jays were once again led by Jack DesRoches '23, who had a season best at a very difficult state course. He placed fourth overall at the meet. Next for the Jays was Jack Wallace '21 who placed sixth overall at the meet. Rounding out the scoring runners were Lucas Sampedro '24, Stephen Peterman '21, and Morgan Hebert '22. The final runners for Jesuit were Michael Vocke '24 and Patrick Dowd '23. This ends the Jays cross country season, and they looked ahead toward a successful track season in the spring.

*The team was
triumphant over
city rivals Brother
Martin, Holy Cross,
and Rummel.*



-Established September 27, 1927-

SPORTS

SWIM TEAM WINS AGAIN!

BLUE JAYS CAPTURE 38TH CONSECUTIVE DISTRICT AND METRO TITLES, FINISH STATE RUNNERS-UP WITH STRONG PERFORMANCES



UNAFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS SHUTDOWNS, THE BLUE JAY SWIMMERS FLOATED TO THE TOP ONCE AGAIN WITH GREAT INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM PERFORMANCES HEADING INTO THE NOVEMBER 21 STATE MEET.



FOOTBALL

Continued from Page 1.

By early September, Jesuit was able to start after school practice and workouts.

Obviously, all COVID protocols continued. Students were required to wear masks on the bus to all sports functions as well as stay physically distant when possible.

On October 2nd, Jesuit football finally played its first game against Helen Cox. The Jays had a fantastic start to the season with a 45-6 victory. Capacity was limited to only fifty percent, but Blue Jay Spirit was at an all-time high.

The football team also found key victories in the 101st rivalry game against Holy Cross as well as Shaw, and Hahnville. However, there were very many unconventional storylines this year.

For example, due to Covid regulations and weather, Jesuit played a game against St. Augustine on a Sunday afternoon

at noon.

The playoffs always bring great teams such as Rummel, Brother Martin, and John Curtis. However, Coach Scott Bairnsfather had his team ready to face the tough competition in the Catholic League this year.

The two-quarterback system, consisting of Luke LaForge '21 and Jack Larriviere '22, has worked flawlessly throughout the season. Furthermore, Luke Besh '21, Max Milano '21, and Jace Larsen '23 have contributed key offensive firepower.

On the defensive end of the ball, Giovanni Licciardi '21 and Hayden Morris '21 provided key interceptions and pass deflections. Defensive lineman Joseph Barnett '22 and Luke Carlton '21 supplied great run stops and sacks.

Although this year has been unconventional, Jesuit football has persevered through all challenges and put together an awesome season.



Jesuit defeated Holy Cross on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Southeastern University's Strawberry Field in Hammond, one of many size-limited venues for the virus-shortened season.