



The Blue Jay



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Met Opera star back on Phils' stage

'Damn Yankees' is a homecoming for Kirk Redmann, '79

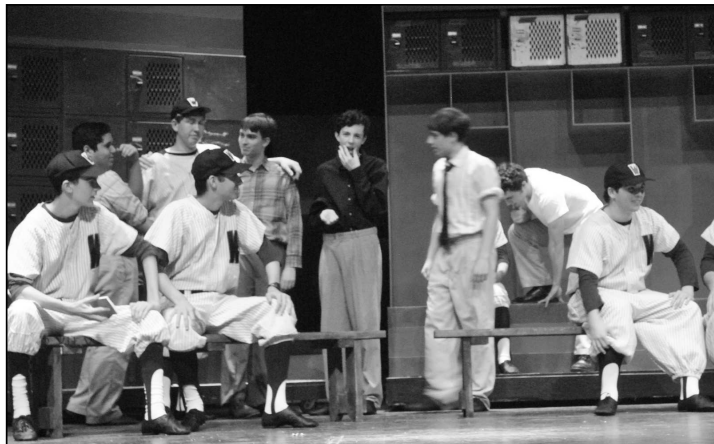
By Jason LaHatte
Staff Writer

Spring training has begun on baseball diamonds across the country, and the excitement of the ballpark has even extended to the stage of the Phils.

Bringing the crack of the bat and the smell of the grass and Cracker Jacks to the auditorium, Jesuit's Philelectic Society is now staging one of Broadway's most popular hit musicals, *Damn Yankees*.

The spring musical production is a modern retelling of the Faust legend, set in the 1950s, and revolving around the long-time rivalry between the Washington Senators and the perennial powerhouse, those "damn" New York Yankees. The show opens with a long-suffering fan, Joe Boyd, lamenting the Senator's lousy record and need of a star player. Enter Mr. Applegate, a devilish song-and-dance man who offers Boyd one hell of a deal.

The students in the cast will be joined by a special guest star, Mr. Kirk Redmann, a former star on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. The tenor is playing the role of the older Joe Boyd, who



The hapless Washington Senators need a star hitter to finally beat the New York Yankees. They find one in a devilish deal in *Damn Yankees*, the hit musical comedy being staged by the Philelectic Society.

gets the chance to live out his dream (for a price) to become a major league baseball player. Mr. Redmann, Class of 1979, realized his own dreams as a singer, beginning his career right here on the stage with the Phils.

During a break in rehearsals, he shared with *The Blue Jay* his thoughts on his musical career and his stage homecoming.

"It is such a great opportunity to be back with the Phils," he said. "It's been a great experience for me. Working with director Kate Arthurs-Goldberg and choreographer Kenny Beck, who was in my class, bring back so many memories."

He said he also recognizes how important and encouraging it is for the members of the Phils

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Ms. A keeps her students in the spotlight

By William Fine
News Editor

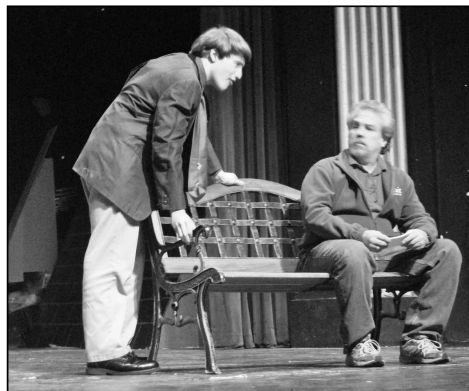
For Mrs. Kate Arthurs-Goldberg, her position as speech teacher and director of the Jesuit Philelectic Society brings together two great loves: teaching and performing arts.

As rehearsals were underway for the current production of *Damn Yankees*, Ms. A, as she is known by her Phils, was able to share an exciting announcement with the performers. The Philelectic Society, Jesuit's oldest co-curricular group, has been awarded the opportunity to participate in the nationally acclaimed American High School Theatre Festival.

Winning a coveted spot in the prestigious annual festival in the summer of 2015, the Phils will travel to London and then to Edinburgh, Scotland, where the AHSTF participates in the popular Edinburgh Fringe Festival theater program. The Phils will be the only group representing Louisiana in the program, which brings together performers from

Teacher
Feature

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Mr. Kirk Redmann, right, returns to where his life on stage got its start, appearing as devoted fan Joe Boyd, who sells his soul to Mr. Applegate, played by Patrick Rappold.

Reality deepens impact of Trauma Center visit

By Kevin Credo
Staff Writer

Although I highly doubt that many people ever want to be flung away from their entire life for a day and brought to a hospital, that's exactly what happens to Jesuit's sophomore class during their year-round trips to the LSU Level 1 Trauma Center, as the students are shown just how precious and valuable life is.

While I was getting onto the bus the morning of my own class's trip there, I honestly felt a bit nonchalant about the day. It was a mandatory trip, and I'm sure a lot of us viewed the trip as an escape,

while the rest of our classmates back at Jesuit toiled away at classes for the day. I might be sounding a bit critical about the atmosphere early that morning, but the conversations on the bus felt a little too upbeat for a hospital trip. It seemed out of place.

Pretty soon, we found ourselves being moved through a winding stream of sterile white hallways to a little room that would hold us for most of the day.

The program, called *Sudden Impact*, focuses on the devastation that can be caused by drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs. Students hear from medical personnel, State Police troopers, and victims of

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A class of sophomores participate in a presentation on the dangers of drunken driving at the LSU Trauma Center.

Hit musical retells legend of Faust on ballfield



Mr. Kirk Redmann, a Phils alum, plays the baseball fan who gets a chance to live the dream of his youth in *Damn Yankees*. Ashley Busenlener, right, plays his 'baseball widow' wife, Meg.

Always pursue dreams, tenor tells Phils, students

Redmann

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to know of its long traditions.

"Alumni are very supportive of the Philelectic Society," he said. "I think it's great to have the connection between the older and younger Phils. I know that for the future, more Phils' alums, including the girls from other schools, will be invited back to perform. It's great to have this connection going."

Some of Mr. Redmann's most treasured memories of Jesuit revolve around his participation with the Phils. Indeed, one of the key messages he has for current students is that the relationships they are establishing now, especially within the Philelectic Society, will be lifelong friendships.

"I remember back in my junior year, we had an infamous production of the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. I was Judas and Mitch Landriau was Jesus," he said.

Mr. Redmann has remained friends through the years with the current mayor of New Orleans.

"Every time he sees me, he asks, 'Are you going to kiss me?' And I say, 'Only if I have to,'" he said with a laugh.

Mr. Redmann's ties to Jesuit cross several generations. His father graduated in 1945. And all of father's nine brothers are Blue Jays.

Several nephews also have come through Carrollton and Banks.

"One uncle, Class of 1940, also was in the Phils," he said. "So both Jesuit and the Phils have a long tradition in our family."

Following his graduation from Jesuit, Mr. Redmann earned his bachelor's degree in fine arts from Tulane University, where he often appeared on stage with Tulane Summer Lyric Theatre.

His first professional role came at Loyola University's

Summer Workshop program.

"It was in *Damn Yankees* during the summer between my sophomore and junior years," he said. "It's funny that my first professional role was the young Joe, and now I am playing the elder Joe Boyd," he said.

Mr. Redmann's operatic career led him to the stage of the Metropolitan Opera, as well as opera houses around the world. He made his debut at the Met in 1983.

"I was the youngest tenor to ever debut at the Metropolitan," he said. Only days before his 22nd birthday, he appeared as the Sailor in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. The Christmas Eve performance was broadcast nationally.

As part of the Met's Young Artist Development Program, Mr. Redmann appeared as Edmondo in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, opposite such star sopranos as Carol Neblett and Mirella Freni. On the Met stage, he also appeared in such operas as Verdi's *La Traviata* and *Rigoletto*, Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*, Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Saint-Saens' *Samson et Dalila*.

In addition to New York's Metropolitan Opera, Mr. Redman has appeared with such American companies as the New Orleans Opera, the Michigan Opera Theatre, the New Jersey State Opera, the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and the San Diego Opera, among others.

Internationally, he has appeared on stages from Nice in France to Hong Kong.

His advice to his younger co-stars in the current production of *Damn Yankees*, as well as to all of his fellow Blue Jays, is simple.

"Pursue your dreams," Mr. Redmann said.

"My mother was an opera singer, so I have wanted to be an opera singer throughout my whole life. Young people need to hold onto their dreams and be realistic about them."

Bravo! Philelectic Society awarded spot at international theater festival in 2015

Phils

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the top high school drama groups from across the country.

For Mrs. Arthurs-Goldberg, the honor from the American High School Theatre Festival can be considered a well-deserved sign of the quality and commitment that the Philelectic Society has meant to Jesuit.

Between rehearsals for *Damn Yankees*, she chatted with *The Blue Jay* about her role with the Phils, her own career as an actor, singer and director, and her love of teaching.

For the current production of *Damn Yankees*, Mrs. Arthurs-Goldberg noted that the show captures everything that makes a Phils' musical memorable.

"It has lots of very athletic dancing and singing, a huge cast of great young men and women who all get along really well, Phils alumni in supporting roles and famous campus faces in cameos," she said.

"It's a great baseball musical comedy based on the legend of Faust. This one has been a blast to prepare."

In choosing which plays or musicals for the Phils to present, she pays attention to the particular talents, as well as potential talent, and in previous shows.

"I don't pre-cast in general, as you can tell by the casting of a freshman as young Joe in *Damn Yankees*, but I do always have an idea of who may be able to do what. It would be foolish to choose a show we couldn't cast," she said. "But a part is always an actor's to lose. There is always another actor who can play a part, whether you think they may or may not be better than you. Actors must come into an audition prepared to show the director and creative team what they can do with a role and why they should be chosen to play it."

The Philelectic Society has, quite literally, changed her life, she said, noting that she met her husband, Mr. Ron Goldberg, when he joined the Phils' staff as technical director leading the set construction crews for the productions of *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Kiss Me, Kate*. In addition to finding true love, she said she especially enjoys working with both her students and colleagues daily.

"I learn something new every day from them. And of course, being the first female

director in the long and illustrious history of the Phils is really cool," Mrs. Arthurs-Goldberg said. "The Phils will celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2016. And if you google the word 'Philelectic' it always brings you here, as the word exists nowhere else in the world. The Phils are very special."

The teaching profession runs in her blood, Mrs. Arthurs-Goldberg said.

"It's the family business. My late mother taught pre-school at Parkway Presbyterian for 25 years. My father has been at Archbishop Rummel for 49 years and taught night school at both Tulane University and Our Lady of Holy Cross College," she said. "Dinner table conversation always revolved around interesting stories, lessons that worked

Treehouse Players' *Rapunzel*. But being in the original cast of *Cinderella Battistella*, a New Orleans version of the fairy tale that is truly near and dear to my heart, that was my favorite.

"I played the Voo-Do Queen fairy godmother alongside Becky Allen, Ginger Guma, Shirl Cieutat, Eva Earls, and Robert G. Lee to name a few. It was all written and directed by New Orleans legends Freddy Palmisano, David Cuthbert, Bob Bruce and Ty Tracy. Students won't know these names, but lots of us older New Orleanians will. It was my first gig at Le Petit Theatre and I had no idea who all these amazing people were and how lucky I was to be a part of that," she said.

She notes for her students that some of the most memorable



During a break in rehearsals, Mrs. Kate Arthurs-Goldberg announces to the members of the Philelectic Society that the group has earned a spot in the American High School Theater Festival in 2015 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

or failed, and of course, the antics of students. My whole life I've had two weeks off at Christmas, Mardi Gras break, and the summer off. I don't know how people work the same job year round."

Her own interest in theater has been a lifelong passion that she often sees reflected in her students in the Phils. She earned both her first acting and singing roles in high school.

"My first solo was during a high school Christmas concert. I was to share it with another girl. It was a lovely carol in Spanish called 'A La Nanita Nana.' The other girl burst into tears on stage and I kept singing, though I sang terribly, as I was terrified. But I can still sing it!" Her first roles as an actress came in a CYO one-act play competition and as the Good Witch of the North in *The Wizard of Oz* when she was a sophomore.

While she has appeared in many shows across the New Orleans area, it's difficult to pick a single favorite. "Ha! It's easier to name the plays I hate," she said laughing. "The original casts that I've been a part of would top my list. I've had roles written for me in operas in college as well as a huge local hit musical,

moments might not always occur on traditional theaters.

"Any time I can sing with my sisters is a special time. Singing our national anthem in three-part harmony with a fly-over and breaking of the sound barrier at the end from Belle Chasse Naval Air Station for the grand opening of Jazzland was definitely fun," she said. "But the craziest gig I ever had was opening for Irma Thomas by impersonating Ethel Merman while singing 'There's No Business Like Coal Business' for the National Coal Mining Exporter's Union convention. There were all these waiters running around in headlamps and I got paid \$500 for two and a half minutes on stage!"

It's not the applause that most attracts Mrs. Arthurs-Goldberg to the theater.

"It's the process. I love finding the show, the talent, producing, and directing it," she said. "I wish we could sell a ticket that lets you see an audition, midway into rehearsals, and then the final product, so people could see the process."

"Of course, you can if you join our cast and crew with the

Senior Kevin Yokum has the answers, even when they're in the form of a question

By Quinn Stiller
Features Editor

For Kevin Yokum, games are anything but child's play. As captain of Prep Quiz Bowl, Yokum has led the team to its fifth straight state championship this year - he's been a member of the varsity team for three of those championships. He's also a member of the Academic Games team.

And a few years ago, he scored big on one of America's best-known games, television's top quiz show, *Jeopardy*.

This well-rounded Blue Jay, however, also is fully engaged in life at Jesuit. On the academic side, he's president of the National Honor Society, and serves on the executive boards of both Mu Alpha Theta and the Classics Society. On the field, he joins in intramural sports. His spiritual life includes participation in Student Ministry and the Sodality. His talents extend to music, where he has played the piano for 12 years and has even begun composing original music. *The Blue Jay* caught up with the busy senior to talk about his life here at Jesuit and beyond.



Joined by his teammates and coaches, senior Kevin Yokum, center, shows off the trophy the Prep Quiz Bowl team won in its fifth straight state championship.

Blue Jay of the Month

The Blue Jay: What's your greatest achievement so far?

Kevin Yokum: Becoming an Eagle Scout was pretty big for me because it was the culmination of years of work in the Boy Scouts. I also received the Archdiocese of

New Orleans Outstanding Youth Award last year for my involvement in my CYO, so that was a big moment. Finally, being able to be a part of three consecutive State Championship Quiz Bowl teams has been pretty awesome.

TBJ: What three factors have aided your academic success?

KY: Well, Mr. McGannon always told us that all we needed were

eyes, a pencil, and a brain. But I don't think that's all. If I had to pick three things, I would probably say: I pay attention in class; I put in the effort to study and do my work; and I try to manage my time well so that I can finish the easy work quickly and then spend more time understanding and practicing the harder stuff.

TBJ: Your favorite subject?

KY: That's a tough one. Probably a three-way tie between Social Studies, Latin, and Greek. Social Studies because I have just always been a big fan of social studies. Latin and Greek because usually those are smaller classes with great teachers, so they are a lot of fun.

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Trauma

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the preventable crashes that result from bad decisions.

Things were pretty normal as we heard stories about how an anonymous someone had been killed, paralyzed, or changed forever by getting hurt in car crashes. The stories were far from anything that we took lightly, but as startling as the facts and figures could be, I couldn't help but feel detached from them.

Of course, I knew that these were all very real stories that had very real consequences, but I, and likely most of us there, were only looking at this stuff because we had to. We'd heard about the innocent teen-age girl who had gotten paralyzed by a drunken driver and the police officer who got maimed by a speeding car. I felt sorry for all of their tragedy, but only so much emotion can resonate through a video taken with an iPhone or a PowerPoint presentation in a quaint little conference room.

Near the end of our visit, we had a lunch break in the cafeteria outside of our conference room. We'd all just heard about so many of these horrific stories, but a lot of us were more concerned that we hadn't brought along more money for bacon strips. While the rest of my homeroom classmates were finishing their lunches or just generally screwing around in the conference room during the remaining break time, I was eyeing the vending

machines with great interest.

As I was looking through the glass of the machines, I soon noticed that I wasn't alone there. Another young boy who looked about 13 or 14 years old was looking through at the same machines. I didn't really want to talk to anyone at the moment, but he noticed my Jesuit uniform, starkly contrasted to his own casual clothes, and he asked me about the school. Soon, I started telling him all about Jesuit, and many of the things that seemed completely routine for me were fascinating to this boy.

When I had finally gotten around to asking him why he was there on the same day as us, I was expecting him to tell me that some public school in the city must have had a trip scheduled on the same day as ours.

"My mom got hit by a car," he said.

Suddenly, in a single sentence, everything seen and heard earlier in the conference room became real. This was no PowerPoint, there was no fourth wall. This was reality. His mother's life was in jeopardy that very second.

The boy told me that he was praying for his mother. I told him that I would, as well. I couldn't talk to the boy much longer when I heard my classmates moving back to the meeting room. The rest of the presentation took on a different tone for me. I now knew just how close this all was and just how much this could hit home. I doubt I'll ever shake my

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In land of po-boys, cheesesteaks find home on Freret's dining row

By Brendan Besh
and Jack Hebert
The Taste Buds

It's late. Both Taste Buds are hungering for a nice, juicy Company Burger, but as is custom, the line is out the door. To no argument, Brendan suggests a succulent sausage from an old favorite, Dat Dog. But on the walk down Freret, Jack is intoxicated by the smell of beef on a flat top grill.

This wonderful smell comes from Liberty Cheesesteaks, a welcome addition to the increasingly popular dining alley. True to its motto, Liberty Cheesesteaks brings "a true cheesesteak to Freret Street."

Now, we know what you're thinking. Why get a sandwich from Philadelphia in a city famous for po-boys?

The answer is simple - roast beef. As experts in the culinary arts, we Taste Buds have tasted the finest beef all over this great city, but Liberty takes the cake. Although not tenderized by the fists of Rocky Balboa, like some choice cuts from the City of Brotherly Love, Liberty's beef melts in your mouth. The classic combination of meat and cheese melds into one, mind-blowing mass that satisfies with every bite.

Liberty Cheesesteaks

5031 Freret St.
(504) 875-4447
www.libertycheesesteaks.com
Hours:
Monday through Saturday,
11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday
11 a.m.-6 p.m.

TASTE BUDS RATING:
5 Golden Forks

The menu is simple (only cheesesteaks) but does offer a bit of variety. One can choose from the original steak with Provolone cheese or Cheez Whiz, the classic choices from the streets of Philadelphia.

An Italian twist comes with the pizza cheesesteak, with red gravy and mozzarella. Then there's the chick steak, served with chicken instead of beef.

If onions and cheese aren't enough to top your steak, Liberty suggests their homemade spicy, garlic, or hot pepper sauces.

These cheesesteak conjurers even ventured into the wonderful realm of po-boys, offering up a French fry po-boy with grilled onions and Cheez Whiz.

What makes Liberty stand

out among restaurants claiming to have authentic Philly cheesesteaks is their use of Italian rolls imported directly from Philadelphia.

Unlike a traditional po-boy loaf, these footlong loaves of bread are soft, but not flaky.

If a hearty full steak can't fill you up, Liberty offers sides of regular, Cheez Whiz, and steak fries.

Normally, steak fries refers to the cut of the potato, but at Liberty it literally means steak. That's right. Grilled meat plus French fries. It's reality. If you still hunger for more delicious treats, Liberty offers a delicious, homemade bread pudding.

Thanks to some Tulane graduates from Philadelphia, New Orleans was graced with the wonderful gift of cheesesteaks.

Next time you're in search of a meal on Freret, consider Liberty Cheesesteaks as an alternative to the classic po-boy.

We Taste Buds bestow an excellent rating of 5 golden forks upon this Mecca of grilled meat.

Until next time, stay hungry New Orleans.

Wrestling grabs runner-up state title

By Patrick Fine
Managing Editor

The Jesuit wrestling team concluded another successful season last month as the grapplers reached the semifinal round of the state championship.

The wrestlers captured the runner-up title in the State Tournament, no easy feat as the team went up against all the top wrestling programs in Louisiana. The season was marked by team victories in major tournaments throughout the season, and individual accomplishments by a number of the wrestlers.

The work for the season goes on year-round as the wrestlers train for weeks and months just to condition their bodies. Once conditioned, the team practices several times a week for hours on end learning techniques and moves that they can use in the actual matches.

Often times, team members will have to fit into weight classes in order to have the best wrestlers all represented. As a result, wrestlers have to watch their diets extremely carefully to fit into the higher end of a lower weight class, or put on massive amounts of muscle to wrestle up in a higher weight class.

The season lasts for several months, requiring significant commitments from the Jays, to maintain the best possible class and position throughout the season. These responsibilities resulted in that team effort that allowed Jesuit to come in second in the State Wrestling Tournament. In addition to the team's achievements, several wrestlers won individual titles this year.

Among these personal achievements were two individ-

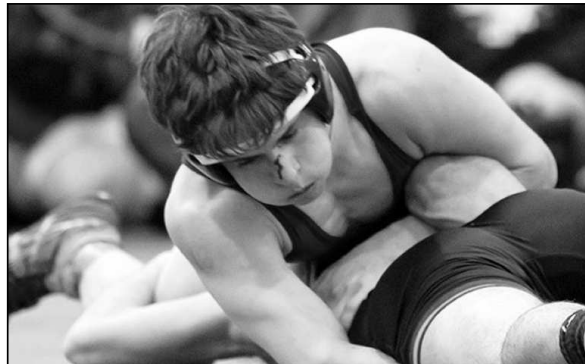


Members of the wrestling team and their coaches gather around the trophy they earned at the semi-finals of the state championship. Though the team came in second to St. Paul's, strong showings were seen all season.

ual state champions. Junior Ben D'Antonio and senior Jake Eccles each won individual titles in the 120-pound and 170-pound weight class, respectively.

The Jays were also helped by runner-up finishes in the state tournament by sophomore Guy Patron and senior Nicky Charles.

Looking toward the future, the Jays had top-five finishes in nearly every weight class, the majority of the com-



In one of the many hard-fought bouts, junior Ben D'Antonio won the first place individual state title in his weight class.

petitors being underclassmen. The team will look forward to another successful season next year with its sights set on the

defending state champion and district rival, the Crusaders of Brother Martin.

3-peat for soccer missed

By Brady Stiller
Staff Writer

Regardless of the daunting loss to the St. Paul's Wolves to achieve a third consecutive State Champion title, the Blue Jay Varsity soccer team still had a strong and remarkable season.

Led by captains Mitch Bourgeois and Nick Tadros, the Jays started off the season on a good foot by shutting out their opponents Ben Franklin, Archbishop Shaw, and Archbishop Rummel. The team maintained a record with consistent wins, losing only four games throughout the season.

Achieving a number-six seed to open the playoffs at John Ryan Stadium, the team flushed out Comeaux with a 5-0 victory. After defeating Baton Rouge in the next round, the Jays made the extensive trip to Sulphur for the quarterfinals, beating them by three goals.

With confidence and high hopes to go all the way, the Jays ventured to St. Paul's School in Covington for the state semifinals, hoping to seal a victory that would take them to the coveted State Championship game.

After a tough game and a disappointing end to the long and hard season, the Blue Jays nevertheless walked away from the 2-0 loss to the Wolves with optimism. Senior captain Nick Tadros encouraged the team on its winning season. "We are Blue Jays, and we walk out of here with our heads high."

Trauma

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memory of that young man.

On the way back from the hospital, the mood on the bus seemed just as upbeat as it was that morning. It could have been easy to be annoyed over my classmates talking about their fantasy football stats after I'd just witnessed one of the most important moments of a young man's life.

But I began to realize that joking around and laughing might just be the best way we could live out what we'd learned in that hospital. The most serious message of the trauma center visit made me aware that life was so fragile. I came to the realization that it should be enjoyed that much more.

If we spend all of our time worrying about what could happen, we lose the joy of everything that does happen. Life is too amazing to pass up. I hope that I'm never going to be sent to that hospital in a helicopter, but I'm glad that I've been there before.

Blue Jay of Month

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In addition, we also get to translate some great stories in Latin and Greek classes.

TBJ: What has been your favorite moment at Jesuit?

KY: Greek III End of the Year Party. Greek III class was the fourth class that Mr. Acy taught us in a span of two years. He taught both Latin and Greek to us in sophomore and junior years. He was pretty tired of our class by that point, so we threw him a giant party at the end of the year. I will never forget it. We had streamers, party hats, noisemakers, giant balloons, a unicorn piñata, a mariachi band, an "It's a boy" sign, and a giant check for the amount of money we had left over in the party fund that we had collected. It was an epic event. And kudos to Mr. Acy for surviving those two years.

TBJ: What about a favorite individual class?

KY: Mr. Wright's Calculus BC class. It was just a great, although intense, experience. He makes sure to call you out on all your stupid mistakes, but then helps you correct them so that you understand the concept. He yelled at us the entire year for worrying about grades because "numbers don't matter" in his class. In addition, he's pretty eccentric, so that keeps it interesting; plus, I learned a lot - even though he claims that he isn't a teacher.

TBJ: Where are you considering going to col-

lege?

KY: Right now it looks like the University of Notre Dame. I want to go out of state to a place that has opportunities for research and study abroad, and Notre Dame is a pretty popular school in my family. Plus, I have a scholarship offer at Notre Dame; so that's probably the biggest incentive.

TBJ: What has Jesuit meant to you?

KY: Jesuit has given me a chance to participate in so many great extracurricular activities and to become friends with so many great students and teachers. In addition, I have been very fortunate to attend World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011 and in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, two experiences that were phenomenal both culturally and spiritually. Those opportunities wouldn't have been possible anywhere else.

TBJ: Speaking of spirituality, do you have a favorite saint and a favorite prayer?

KY: I don't really have a favorite saint, but a few that I like are St. Augustine, St. Ignatius, and St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Ignatius' Prayer for Generosity is a prayer that I always try to keep in mind as a reminder to search for ways in which I can serve others.

TBJ: How do you manage being involved in so many extracurriculars and academics?

KY: A lot of it involves prioritizing all my different activities. I try to get schoolwork done as quickly as possible so that I have time to participate in extracurricular activities. Often I have multiple things on the same day, so then it comes down to figuring out which activity is more important to me. Generally

my family is at the top of my priorities list, and then it goes down from there.

TBJ: Going back a few years, tell us about your experience on *Jeopardy!*

KY: It was pretty awesome. Just getting on the show is difficult, with tests to take and interviews to prepare for and perform; so I felt very fortunate just to get on and compete on the show. On the day of the taping, I was on the last show to be taped that day, so I had a lot of time to sit around and relax. The only problem was that I was wearing shoes that were a bit too small, so I ended the day with bruises on my feet.

When it was finally time for my show, I had to get all set up with microphones and coached on which cameras to look into at different times. Then it was time to play.

Most of the game went by without anything interesting happening. The hardest part of it was being able to buzz in at the right time. If you try to buzz in too early, you get locked out for a fraction of a second, which can make a big difference in the game. Going into the final question, I was in second place. Because the category was "U.S. Presidents," which I felt I knew pretty well, I decided to bet pretty much all of my money. Needless to say, it worked out; and I won the game.

Afterwards, I finally got to change out of those shoes. My family and I then went out for a celebratory dinner.

Overall, it was a great experience; and it also gives me a good story to tell for years to come.