

WINTER 2019

# THE SHIELD

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Pope John Paul II High School



JPII  
Charging  
Forward



a magazine for  
alumni and friends of  
Pope John Paul II High School



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## FINE ARTS

Led by **Mr. Mike O'Neill**, the JPII Choirs traveled to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall last March. Students revisit the performance and their experiences in the city.

## ATHLETICS

We celebrate with alumnus **Mason Hickman '17** as he reflects on pitching in the final game of the College World Series last June and on his time as a IPII baseball player and student.

## FAITH

**Father David Dodd '08** reconnected with JPII during his recent visits and shared the story of his journey from JPII student to Franciscan friar. However, he's not the only member of the Dodd family who has found a calling at JPII.

## COMMUNITY

From hosting students from England, France, and Germany, JPII has always valued its International Scholars and visitors. Meet the next generation of International Scholars from China.

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Andrew Gilstrap '12
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Since the inception of the JPII magazine in 2014, it has been retitled twice. The inaugural launch title, *Knight Times*, was replaced with *Beyond Ourselves* in 2015. We once again present a new magazine title, which we believe will serve the school well throughout the coming years.

Over the school's short 18-year history, the JPII shield has become known throughout the local community, representing our school on and off the athletic fields and extending its representation to all members of our school community, including our beloved alumni.

The Bible references armor of a spiritual type in Ephesians 6:11, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Saint John XXIII, who was beatified on the same day as Saint Pope John Paul II, encouraged everyone to put on the body armour of Christ in one’s quest to stay faithful: “Hail, Christ the King! I put on your uniform, I fasten your sword; I am proud to call myself a knight of Christ. Give me a soldier’s heart, a knight’s valor, O Jesus, and I will always be by your side.”

As we launch the sixth year of the JPII alumni magazine, we launch a new title as well ~ *The Shield*. As in medieval times, the JPII shield is a coat of arms. The four quadrants each represent one of the school's four pillars: faith life, academics, fine arts, and athletics. It is our hope that in renaming the magazine, our community will identify with the purpose of the publication: to keep our entire community abreast of all aspects of the JPII experience with a special focus on our faithful AlumKnights, living near or far, but always with us in spirit.

We hope you enjoy this edition of *The Shield*. Most articles were crafted by current JPII students serving on the magazine staff through the advent of a new course offering. As always, we love to hear from our alumni. Please continue to submit alumni news to Jo Lind Weaver, Director of Donor and Alumni Relations, at [jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org](mailto:jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org).

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*Headmaster*

**Karen Phillips**  
*Assistant Head of School*

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Terry Wallace**

Dear JPPI Community,

I hope you enjoy reading our annual magazine, which we have renamed *The Shield*. A shield is important in any family's legacy. It represents our name, our brand, and our mark. It demonstrates our pride in our past and our pledge to go forward and face any challenge boldly. We can tell a tale of pioneers who started a school from scratch with a vision to do something amazing. They faced obstacles and even a flood, but the City on the Hill stands taller than ever. Our shield carries the scars of battle and the colors of honor representing our accolades in academics, arts, athletics, and as a community of Christ.

Today the school, like a shield, is stronger than ever. Academically we made a significant shift four years ago to focus on innovation and have seen our highest ACT composite score in the last four years. We will soon be one of the only STEM certified private schools in the state and one of the few of the Catholic schools in the nation. We recently received a donation of nearly \$300,000 to support an Entrepreneurial and Investment program run by Bob Page, and we actually have the students invest money on behalf of the school. Our enrollment has grown for the last three years and continues despite the trend of a decline in the region and around the country. Our athletic programs have grown to 24 sports, and our teams are holding their own against the best in Tennessee. We recently added crew, archery, and trap and skeet to our program. The arts, as always, are vital to the culture of JPPI. We now have five choirs and four different bands and have garnered regional and state honors in both the visual and performing arts. Campus Ministry revamped our programs and has added class service retreats, which are doing some amazing work with our community in Sumner County and Nashville. No matter where you look on campus, JPPI is making great strides, and we are not yet finished making advances to serve our students.

Why are we doing so well? We have amazing people at this school. They are centered on our mission to serve God by developing the talents of our students to make this world a better place. We have creative and hardworking leaders, caring and talented teachers, and smart, energetic staff. Every day they show up ready to work and committed to our students. We are different by choice. We seek excellence in all. JP II is built on the strength of alumni, parents, and benefactors who wholeheartedly love this school.

With shields up, we go into the future, ready to face the dragons and capture the castle. Our biggest goals are to build an endowment to secure the financial future of the school, and to create a new master site plan that will

## Letter from the Headmaster



make JPPI one of the leading Catholic schools in the nation in the decades to come. A robust endowment is a key to making our school strong, and without building it, we limit our potential. With nearly 30 percent of our students on financial aid and a desire to keep tuition as low as possible, we need annual dividends from an endowment to help make Catholic education possible for our future families. Our strategy to build this fund is through major gifts and planned giving. Two of our well-known founders, Karen Phillips and Betty Mayberry, have teamed up to lead our planned giving campaign. They are meeting with members of the community and starting a program to get everyone to consider JPPI when planning their estates or considering a legacy gift. We cannot think of two better shield bearers to lead this charge. Our new master site plan is in process, and we have aimed for the stars. We have retained the architects who originally designed our beautiful campus. They are looking at redesigning classrooms, adding labs, and giving our academic programs state of the art space. An indoor athletic center, an expanded dining hall, and an improved student commons area are just a few of the developing plans to improve and enhance the student experience. Research shows that the social and extracurricular experiences of students can be just as important as the academic experience. Therefore, we see the importance of making space for positive and healthy interactions for the students. Finally, we are considering possible locations for an athletic center, which will serve all of our sports teams year round. The center will include an indoor field and track and give us space to offer more to our growing women's programs. We have acquired land which provides us with room to grow, and we have created a blueprint that would allow the school's future leaders to add things that we cannot even yet imagine.

I hope you sense the excitement we are feeling. We want our families and alumni to be proud of what they have done to build this school. We promise to honor you by making this school better and better each year. We ask for your continued prayers, support, donations, and encouragement. Shields Up, Knights!

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael A. Deely  
Michael A. Deely



# Headlining Carnegie Hall

By Harrison Howze '20



On St. Patrick's Day last year, the JPII choir lined up in the freezing New York wind at the performers' entrance of Carnegie Hall. As they eventually filed through the door, removed their winter coats, and made their way backstage, they marveled at this once in a lifetime moment. The months of rehearsals at school and the days of rehearsals in a hot hotel ballroom led up to this performance on the world-famous Carnegie Hall stage. Soon, the JPII choir took their place among a group of musicians from around the world. The house lights dimmed, the conductor's arms raised, the instruments played, and the choir began the first movement of *Magnificat*.

Under the direction of Mr. Mike O'Neill, the JPII Chamber and Concert Choirs were selected by the DCINY organization to perform at Carnegie Hall, one of the most prestigious stages in the world, with choirs from around the world and from as far as Australia. "It was kind of surreal because you always hear about Carnegie Hall but never

imagine actually performing there. It's just a different experience to be on stage looking out at the chairs, which go farther back than you can even see. It was the biggest concert hall I've ever performed in. The entire experience was just really awesome," reflected senior Chris Muller.

*"It was magical.  
It is the  
world-famous  
concert hall."*

Mr. O'Neill agreed: "It was magical. It is *the* world-famous concert hall. We got to share the stage with singers from all over the world with a full professional orchestra and professional director. JPII sang with a combined choir of over 200 singers

from all over the US and the world, of which JPII made up 44 singers. Although the rehearsals were long, producing a concert worthy of that stage with so many diverse musicians made them absolutely worth it."

According to senior Ava Tomkins, rehearsals "lasted for five hours. The most memorable parts of the five-hour rehearsals were the choir director's jokes and mannerisms. It was a very different experience compared to Mr. O'Neill's directions. I think it was interesting to see different styles of directors for such a complicated piece."



Mr. O'Neill waits for his choir students to take the stage during dress rehearsal at Carnegie Hall.



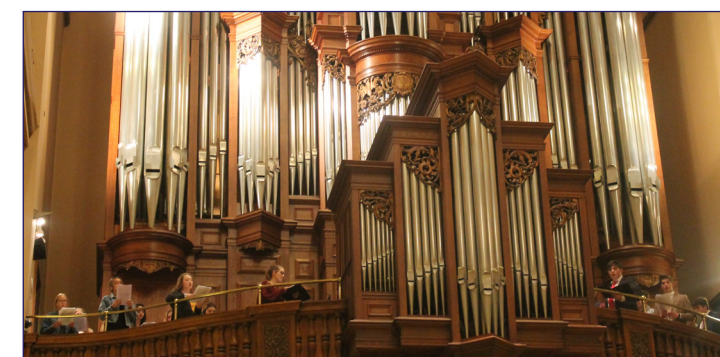
Mr. O'Neill further explained, "The music we performed was a composition by John Rudder called *Magnificat*, which is a major work with several movements and pauses, mirroring the *Magnificat* in the Bible."

Before their performance in Carnegie Hall, the choir was invited to sing for Mass at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. According to senior Ava Tomkins, "Singing there was amazing. The acoustics sounded angelic, and our voices reverberated off of the walls, which was really cool to hear. We had many people come up to us after and tell us how beautiful it was. It was a really cool experience overall, and it marked one of my favorite moments of the whole trip."

Senior Chris Muller elaborated on the St. Ignatius experience: "We got to sing music we had prepared for the Mid-State Festival in Tennessee at St. Ignatius in New York. We were up in

the choir loft next to a magnificent organ, and to hear our music in that setting was amazing."

This trip meant a lot for the reputation of JPII's choir, as, according to Ava, "Participating in this event steps up our recognition and the overall awareness of



JPII Choirs sing in the choir loft at St. Ignatius Loyola in Manhattan.

our choir. Our school name was mentioned all around Carnegie Hall, and all of the singers from around the world were so curious about us kids from the only high school that was selected to perform." Mr. O'Neill received compliments about how professional the JPII choir students were as they joined the adult groups for the long rehearsals.

Another highlight of the trip was seeing *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway. Many of the students and chaperones had never been to a Broadway show and enjoyed the experience of seeing a live musical production, complete with an orchestra. The show had many of the choir members singing along with the soundtrack for the rest of the trip. Mr. O'Neill said that seeing the production was important because he wanted his students to have the experience of watching professional musicians in a Broadway theatre. The dinner at the Stardust Diner before the show included many Broadway

hopefuls performing while also serving their tables, which gave students a realistic view of the dedication and struggle it takes to become a Broadway star. The talent at the diner and at the theatre was inspiring to all of the travelers.

*(Continued on next page.)*



The performances were not the only thing that students enjoyed on the trip though, as the choir and their chaperones toured New York City’s iconic sights, such as the 9/11 memorial, Rockefeller Center, Central Park, and Times Square. Some of the choir spent their final evening in the city at the top of the Empire State Building, including junior Alex Browning, a member of the Chamber Choir, who thought that “it was a lot of fun seeing the lights of New York City from the top of the Empire State Building with my friends. It was an amazing experience seeing New York at night, despite how cold it was.”



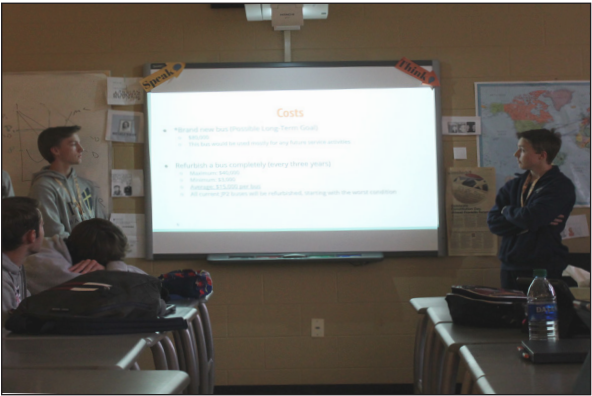
The JPPI Choirs continue a long tradition of sharing their talent with the world. JPPI had performed once before at Carnegie Hall under the previous choir director Jj Ebelhar in 2006. They have also performed in Cincinnati, Italy, and most recently, in the Disney Candlelight Ceremony. Mr. O’Neill explained that he definitely plans to continue the tradition of performing on the road: “The hope is that Voices uKnighed will participate in a national convention in 2021 in Orlando, and about 6-8 months later, I am working toward traveling to Orlando for the Disney Candlelight Ceremony with all the choirs.”



# DONATION SPARKS INVESTMENT PLANNING IN JPPI’S INNOV8 PROGRAM

Part of the JPPI Innov8 program, Mr. Bob Page’s Investment and Entrepreneurial classes, which give students tools and financial support to make investments in the stock market or to create a business, received an anonymous gift of \$290,000. The donor is interested in how the course allows students to explore topics like finance and business ownership.

Page’s course fits perfectly into the Innov8 project-based learning model. Known as a creative and forward-thinking program that makes a college preparatory education transformative and practical, JPPI’s Innov8 program, led by Director of Innovation Jennifer Dye, includes a combination of project-based courses, internships, and independent study. Through involvement in Innov8, students are challenged to be bold, encounter failure, and learn to see those failures as opportunities to grow and learn. Instead of textbooks and tests, the Innov8 program allows the students to become the innovators of the future—leaders in all fields of industry, government, and the arts who will create their own jobs, rather than simply finding them. The Innov8 program shifts the traditional classroom model by empowering teachers who have unique interests and real-world experiences to become mentors to students who develop solutions that solve real-world problems. Innov8 has allowed JPPI students the opportunity to discover their unique potential to affect change in their community and the world.



Business plan presentation by the winning group

Mr. Page’s strength as one of the Innov8 teachers is indeed his wealth of experience in the world of finance. Originally from New York where he worked on Wall Street, Mr. Page eventually moved to Nashville, where he worked in banking and started a family. After a successful career in the hard knocks field of finance, he left to pursue his passion of working with kids as a teacher and lacrosse coach. As a very successful college lacrosse player at the University of Virginia, where he is in the school’s athletic hall of fame, Mr. Page returned to the sport he loved by introducing it to kids who were typically more familiar with football than lacrosse. Mr. Page started the JPPI lacrosse program and quickly built a following among kids who loved the sport just like he did. Mr. Page also helped JPPI to build a robust AP program by sharing his understanding of finance in the AP Economics courses. When Innov8 started at JPPI, he was one of the first to get on board, as he was drawn to classes centered on students’ passions and interests. His investment and entrepreneurial classes quickly became two of the most popular courses in the program.

Page explained the way in which the recent donation will not only enrich the investment program but also benefit Innov8 service projects: “Over the next few months, students will create an Investment Plan to support the creation of an *endowment-like* fund while managing a virtual individual investment portfolio. Together, these activities along with lessons on the keys to investing (diversification, compounding, and risk analysis, etc.) will establish the students’ investing confidence. Central to the Investment Plan will be how to invest the funds and distribute the funds to deserving JPPI projects. It is anticipated that the winning proposal will invest a portion of the recent gift and make a cash grant to a JPPI service project. These transactions will undoubtedly add to the project’s authenticity and excitement.” We appreciate that one of the caveats of the donation is that it will be used to support service-related projects, which fits perfectly into our mission as a Catholic school: helping students use their talents to transform our world.

The first group of students to be awarded funds from the donation were in Mr. Page’s fall Innov8 course. Seniors Cade Davis, Ethan Adcox, Aaron Kernell, and Vicente Cadena advanced their understanding of investing as they developed the most comprehensive investment plan for their portfolio with the most effective presentation (pictured above). They were awarded funds to enhance an existing JPPI bus dedicated to community service projects.

## JPPI ALUMKNIGHT SPOTLIGHT

Andrew Gilstrap ‘12 has been busy since graduating with a Master’s in Voice Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Houston’s Moore School of Music. This alumnus of JPPI’s choral program has joined the Resident Artist Program at Minnesota Opera and is singing several roles on the main stage, including Der Pfleger for Richard Strauss’ *Elektra*, Don Basilio in Gioachino Rossini’s *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, the Immigration Officer in Jonathan Dove’s *Flight*, and Masetto in W.A. Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, as well as covering several roles in the world premiere of Paola Prestini’s *Edward Tulane* and a larger role in *Don Giovanni*. In addition, Andrew has worked for several other professional opera companies recently: Wolf Trap Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera in the Heights, and the Ohio Light Opera. He has also done freelance concert work with Dallas Chamber Choir, Denton Bach Society, and Lone Star College. We are proud to claim Andrew Gilstrap as a JPPI AlumKnight who started his spectacular and busy career as a musician at JPPI.





# On the Mound with Mason Hickman

By Michael Martini '20

Mason Hickman '17

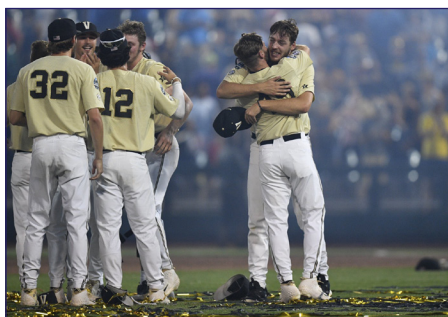
Photographs Courtesy of Mason Hickman

In Omaha on a calm, late June evening, the sun began setting behind a baseball stadium as the sold-out crowd roared. Tensions were high. In this final game of a tied College World Series, Michigan was trying to recover after a game two loss to Vanderbilt. As the Commodores' starting pitcher took the mound, his focus revealed that he was not about to let that happen.

All year, Vanderbilt's Coach Tim Corbin had given the ball to Mason Hickman in clutch games, and his decision to start Mason and leave him in through the first five innings set the tone for the rest of the game. The Vanderbilt Commodores went on to win by a final score of 8-2. The JPII community watched on televisions all over the country as their own Mason Hickman

celebrated his team's College World Series win. Even though the national championship was on the line, Mason's performance that evening seemed to be unfazed by the pressure, which might be why he claims that his most valuable skill as a player just may be his "ability to remain calm" in a deafening crowd of fans.

However, Mason's second-best skill must be, of course, pitching. Mason



has worked hard to gain the Sunday-starting position as a sophomore on the nation's best college team since he began his pitching career at nine years old playing travel baseball. Throughout middle school, he developed by playing baseball year-round while trying to deal with the awkward reality of growing "about a foot per year." Along the way, his coaches and parents recognized something special in him as they supported his "playing up" in age, which Mason also credits as helping him develop as a player.

Mason explained that after he got through his growth spurts and arrived at JPII, things began to come into focus for him: "Starting junior year, I got more serious about baseball." In the summer before junior year, Mason received attention

from some local D1 schools, which made him realize that continuing baseball after high school might be in his future. After playing his freshman and sophomore years, he gave up varsity basketball to train year-round for baseball. He used his time in Coach Justin Geisinger's strength-training program at JPII to get stronger and prepare for his final two high school seasons.

JPII's Head Baseball Coach Chris Parker described Mason as a "quiet competitor," someone who gets the job done and always competes to win. When asked about Mason's best baseball skills, Coach Parker emphatically said with a smile, "He throws strikes."

Along with Coach Parker, Coach John Dempsey, the current JPII Athletic Director and one of Mason's former coaches, raved about Mason's control saying, "He puts it where he wants it." Also, he revealed that Mason was one of two guys he let call his own game, which reflects a great deal of trust from coach to player. Coach Dempsey also recalled that "Mason's work ethic and focus stood out to me along with his ability to never waste any time."

As an AP Scholar at JPII, Mason revealed that he concentrated on preparing himself not only for success on the field but also in the classroom as a high school student. Playing for a national championship baseball program is demanding, but so is keeping up with coursework as a junior at Vanderbilt University. Mason explained, "I'm able to do both because JPII taught me how to manage my time. JPII and Vanderbilt both require extreme balance between athletics and academics, but both programs offer students the opportunity to get help when they need it. They are both supportive of students in that way." Mason credited the academic program at

JPII for preparing him for the rigor of Vanderbilt as he pursues a degree in Human and Organizational Development with a minor in Business.

Two distinct memories came to Mason's mind when he reflected on his time at JPII. His favorite memories involved the time he spent with his teammates, as Mason recalled, "The road trips with the team along with dog-piling after big wins." As Mason thought about the JPII community, he remembered how caring the culture was in the school. After coming back to JPII this year for a football game, Mason realized

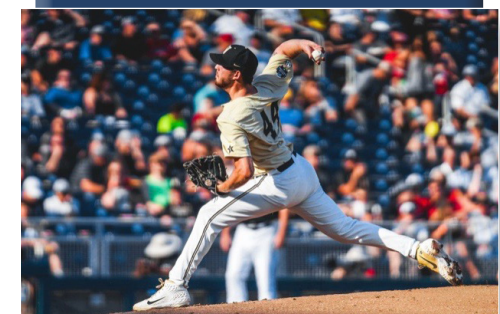
*"The JPII community is a family. The teachers were always so caring and focused on my success."*

how close-knit the JPII community truly is. He said, "That event brought everyone together, reconnecting administration to alumni; the experience made me realize how much JPII cares for their alumni." He described the JPII community as a "family" as he remembered the way his "teachers were always so caring, enthusiastic about what they taught, and focused on [his] success."

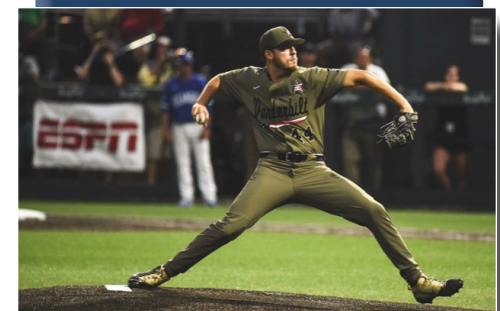
At JPII, we often say, "Once a Knight, always a Knight." When his teachers watch him pitch for Vanderbilt as a Commodore, they still claim Mason as that JPII Knight who walked the halls, sat in their classrooms, and wore the JPII uniform. As the crowd roars and Mason takes the mound for any team, he should know that his teachers and coaches will always be enthusiastic about his success as they, too, are in the crowd cheering for him.



As a sophomore, Mason finished **13th** nationally in strikeouts and **20th** in WHIP.



Mason's **2.05 Era** ranks **4th** in the SEC and **24th** nationally.



Mason was **9 - 0** as a starter his sophomore year.



## CLASS OF 2019 ATHLETIC SIGNINGS

Layout Design by John Roche '20

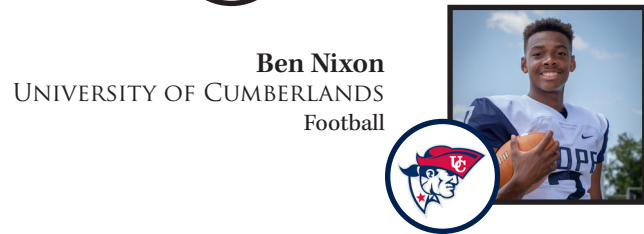
The class of 2019 has the distinction of having the highest number of athletes sign to play at the collegiate level in the history of JP II. On average, 13% of JP II athletes play a sport in college.



**Charles Albert**  
MACALESTER COLLEGE  
Football



**Dallas Darden**  
UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION  
Football



**Ben Nixon**  
UNIVERSITY OF CUMBERLANDS  
Football



**Deuce Drennan**  
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON  
Football



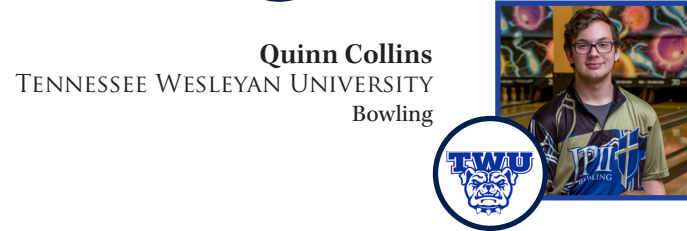
**Christian Underhill**  
CENTRE COLLEGE  
Lacrosse



**David Hobbs**  
MILLSAPS COLLEGE  
Baseball



**Dominic Pianto**  
FURMAN UNIVERSITY  
Baseball



**Quinn Collins**  
TENNESSEE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
Bowling



**Austin Kinsler**  
CARSON NEWMAN UNIVERSITY  
Swimming



**Angela Steidl**  
FURMAN UNIVERSITY  
Womens Soccer



**Lena McCaslin**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
Rowing



**Ali McCarthy**  
RHODES COLLEGE  
Golf



**Brian Raybourne**  
GEORGETOWN COLLEGE  
Track and Field



**Kathleen McLeod**  
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE  
Tennis



**Adair Brockus**  
SPONSOR: HUSEBY HOMES  
BASS Fishing



**Davis Rochester**  
HUNT BROTHERS PIZZA RACING  
US Legends Cars International Racing



## FACULTY FOCUS Q&A EMILY MILLS DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY THEOLOGY TEACHER JP II CLASS OF 2009

### Why did you become a teacher?

I teach because I love my students. I realize that sounds cliché, but that is the reason. I have always wanted to become a teacher; when I was little, I had a white board and markers in my basement. I loved babysitting, nannying, and working at summer camps. This was always what I wanted to be. I was really lucky that the path that led me to teaching was working for Americorps after college in Washington, D.C. at an inner-city, public school. I was teaching first graders. It was the hardest, most exhausting year of my life, and it was one of the best years of my life. I absolutely fell in love with teaching, with all of the ups and downs, all of the sad times and the hard times – because those are always offset by the joyful times. You have all of those frustrating times when students ask you the same questions you just answered, but then you have those moments when a student gets it – those moments make me love teaching. After my experience in Washington, I thought I would be an elementary teacher. I moved to Louisville, taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and got my Master of Arts in Teaching at Bellarmine University.

### How did you end up teaching at JP II?

I got a call from Dr. Peper asking me if I would ever consider teaching theology; he knew I had a B.A. in Religious Studies from Centre College. I thought about how JP II was so instrumental in developing who I am as a person. I feel like so much of who I am today is because of the four years I spent at JP II as a student. So, getting to go full circle and teach at a place where I feel like I learned from so many great teachers, like Dr. Peper and Mrs. Smith, is probably the coolest and most fulfilling experience I could experience as a professional. I think JP II is the best high school in America; I know I'm biased.

### How do you help students see the connections between what you teach and their lives?

Connecting theology to what goes on outside the classroom in some ways is easy because most of my

students come from a faith background, whether they are Catholic or another denomination, so talking about how we celebrate and understand our faith often has real-life applications for them. The beautiful thing about teaching theology at JP II is that we have a real mixture of kids with different backgrounds. Students come from Catholic backgrounds, many different Christian denominations, and other religions, so having those conversations in class about how they encounter their faith in different ways is really fascinating. For my freshmen especially, I hope that they see that it's normal and good to discuss their faith. Some of them don't know that it's okay to ask questions about God. For high schoolers, students at an age of 14 – 18, this is a really pivotal time in their lives when they are asking those big questions, like “what does faith mean to me” and “who is God.” Those topics apply to theology but also go beyond the classroom.

I also try to stay involved with the Diocese of Nashville, with the retreats and events they host, because that's another connection I can give to the kids, especially if they don't have another faith community. I can invite them to events that give them a faith community to which they can belong.

### What is your goal for the Campus Ministry program at JP II?

My goals for Campus Ministry include a comprehensive, leveled retreat program that builds on itself every year and extends beyond just a one day event. I also look forward to developing more student involvement in ministry, whether through music, liturgy, or leadership on retreats. I hope to make Campus Ministry more accessible to our students through a variety of opportunities for engagement with the Mass, prayer services, and retreat experiences. We have added class service retreat days, as well.



# FATHER DODD'S FAMILY CONNECTIONS

By Lance Best '20

*“My primary vocation is not of the priesthood, but to live the whole of my life the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.”*

The auditorium was filled with whispers and silent prayers as the JPPII student body prepared for another weekly Mass. For many, although Mass was an important part of their week, everything seemed the same. However, one person standing at the back of the auditorium might have disagreed. Father David Dodd, a Franciscan friar and an alumnus of the JPPII class of 2008, was the guest celebrant that day. Because this was his first time back on campus since he graduated, his only hope was that everything would go smoothly as he celebrated his first Mass as a priest at his alma mater. In that very moment, a shrill sound permeated throughout the hallways. They had been waiting in the doorway a moment too long, and the incense had triggered the fire alarm. The Mass was temporarily postponed as everyone rushed outside to the parking lot.

One year later, when Father Dodd returned for another Mass, he began his homily in the best way he could.

He calmly started with a simple, “No, I’m not going to set off the fire alarm this time. Don’t worry.” In one simple moment, his whole crazy journey towards the priesthood was complete, best of all, with a joke that fit him well.

The biggest mistake one can make when first meeting Father Dodd is to assume that he is just a normal priest, going through all the same training and practice as the celebrant at your church. However, this class of 2008 alumnus offers a more

fascinating story of faith and growth. His full title is Father Dodd, TOR, which stands for the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance. Father Dodd explained, “My primary vocation is not of the priesthood, but to live the whole of my life the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.” His role in a religious community has led him all the way from Nashville to Herndon, Virginia, where he serves as an associate pastor at St. Joseph’s Church. Best of all, such a long title matches his long, wondrous journey through JPPII and beyond, a journey that almost didn’t happen in the first place.

As Father Dodd, then known to his friends as Will, finished up his 8th grade year, JPPII was the last school on his mind. Almost all of his friends were going to Father Ryan for their freshman year, and naturally Father Dodd

wanted to follow. Of course, he conceded, “My parents chose for me to go to JPPII, and obviously the rest is history.” His

mother, Mrs. Kay Dodd, explained that they chose JPPII because, although they were well-connected and felt comfortable choosing any school within the Catholic community, Pope was the one school that allowed students to grow into their own identities by offering so many various, accessible programs. With children who all have unique goals and personalities, Mrs. Dodd appreciated the variety of opportunities, including sports, challenging academics, and an active Campus Ministry program



Photograph Courtesy of St. Francis Friary



that allowed her four diverse children to explore each of their interests and talents.

Father Dodd's own experience attests to this fact. Even though he felt very much like an outsider at first, he quickly gained a group of friends to call his own. By the time he had reached his junior and senior years, Father Dodd had finally grown into himself. Mrs. Dodd spoke about one of the greatest aspects of JPII has always been its openness to allowing all students participate in athletics. One of Father Dodd's greatest goals during high school was to be part of the football team, but he acknowledged that he wasn't as great of an athlete as he needed to be during his junior year when he first attempted to join. He ended up working with Jason Everhardt, who is still the athletic trainer at JPII. Dodd became both a student athletic trainer, as well as a water-boy for the team. Around the same time, he took his first AP classes, discovering "intellectual gifts [he] never knew he had," and began to feel more ready than ever for college. Most importantly, among all things he discovered about himself during his final years of high school, what seemed like a simple faith retreat became what Father Dodd now calls an "awakening."

One of the most talked-about and anticipated events of any Knight's last two years of high school is SEARCH. Designed to help one grow closer to their faith, the SEARCH retreat attracts multitudes of high school students throughout the diocese. Thus, when the time came for Father Dodd, he attended



Zach Dodd '20, Fr. Dodd '08, Hannah Dodd '23

SEARCH 256; although he had already been raised as Catholic, he still desired an opportunity to learn. Fortunately, what he learned was beyond what he ever imagined. Father Dodd explained, “I realized that in order to be great, I need great people around me,” which was the impetus to begin his path toward discovering his vocation. Granted, the path toward choosing religious life remained a long one; Father Dodd found himself initially blocked by peer pressure and the standards of society, which tends to emphasize career and family. While he recognized none of this as being “bad,” he realized, “I still had the desire to do more.” His experiences at JPPII aided in that journey, revealing to him that there was more to faith than he had ever thought about before. But this was just the beginning of his long journey.

Unlike the standard four to five years that priests must go through in seminary, religious formation for Father Dodd and other Franciscan Friars was seven years. Such a process offers the religious order opportunities to participate in the group more in depth and to grow closer in love and faith over an extended amount of time. For Father

Dodd, “the biggest lesson ... is [that] life is ‘undulating,’ meaning it has its ups and downs, peaks and valleys, good times and bad times, but God is constant.” By the time the seven years had passed, he felt even closer to God than ever before, and yet, he believes he still has plenty to learn and discover.

Now, only a half of a year after Father Dodd was ordained, the entire Dodd family, not just Father, remains loyal to the school that guided their son to his vocation. In addition to Father Dodd, Mr. and Mrs. Dodd have also sent three other children through JPII. Mrs. Dodd laughed, “Having our kids at JPII is so important to us that we are willing to commute all the way from Bellevue every day!” Mrs. Dodd added that all of her children have found ways to explore their interests, whether in sports, through the Innov8 program, or by having access to inclusion opportunities in the Hand in Hand Options Program.

Rachel Dodd-Ritter is the second oldest and an alumnus of the class of 2011. Both Father and Rachel finished college with honors, and according to Mrs. Dodd, “they told me after their college graduations that JPII was harder and the academic program helped them prepare for college.” Rachel, inspired by her experiences as a Peer Buddy in JPII’s Hand in Hand Options Program, decided to pursue a career as a special education teacher. Rachel was also a member of the basketball and volleyball teams during her time at JPII.

Currently, the two youngest Dodd children are on campus. Hannah Dodd is a freshman, and Zach Dodd will graduate this year. Zach is on the track team and an active member of Model UN, and he thoroughly enjoys classes like European History and AP Latin, which have led to his future goal to eventually teach.

Most importantly, Zach's enjoyment of having his sister Hannah on campus with him this year seems very apparent. When I asked him what his favorite memory was of JPII, he quickly cited the first day of school this year: "Seeing Hannah smiling from ear to ear on her first day of school, already excited by the time she was on the bus."



Hannah with her Peer Buddy, Katie Marquardt '20

Hannah is a part of the ever-growing Hand in Hand Options Program, which allows students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be fully included in the JPII community. Hannah adores all of her classes, fueled by her love of her friends and classmates. Although she currently is not part of a sport,

Hannah and her parents look forward to having her participate in the future with the opportunities the school continues to provide.

As the oldest in the family, Father Dodd began the connection to JPII that his family continues today. Both of his visits these past two years were surprising ones, but he was truly happy to return to the campus that helped shape him forever. Father Dodd simply explained it all in a phrase: “[It] felt like a true homecoming and was very humbling.” Father hopes to return to campus whenever he can as he continues religious life in Virginia. JPII led him to his vocation, so he will more than happily give that guidance back whenever, and wherever, he can.

*Save the date for a magical night!*

# JPII GALA 2020

FEBRUARY 1, 2020  
5:00 P.M.  
HUTTON HOTEL

*Do you believe  
in magic?*



Look for your invitation  
to arrive in late December.  
Change of address?  
Contact [jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org](mailto:jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org)



# THE NEXT GENERATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

By Natalie Yarbrough '20

From its inception, JPPII has developed relationships with international scholars through multiple exchange programs. Many will remember the Laughlin Exchange Program in which students from JPPII and England enjoyed visiting each other's families and schools for a total of four weeks each year. Soon after, the German exchange program through CYE, brought many students who spent their senior year at JPPII. Over the years, JPPII has also welcomed several students from South Korea who quickly became part of the JPPII family during their multiple years at our school.

Most recently, the JPPII international program has included a growing group of international scholars from China, thanks to a partnership with the Cambridge Institute of International Education, which has a network of students from throughout Asia who want to study in high schools and colleges within the United States. These students come to JPPII for most of their high school years and live with host families connected to the JPPII community.

JPPII's international scholars program has evolved over the past few years to include an extensive support system for these students as they adjust to a new culture and academic



work in their second, third, or even fourth language. They not only quickly become part of the family with whom they live and experience life in America, but they also receive academic support through a course led by Mrs. Diandian Liu, Cambridge's Student Development Manager (SDM). Mrs. Liu offers invaluable support as one of the few SDMs who also serves as an on-site teacher. She speaks both languages and has close family connections through the Knox family to JPPII, which makes her instrumental to her students' and the program's success. (Mrs. Liu is married to



Taylor Holmes '10 and is the daughter-in-law of Marcie and Fred Knox). Mrs. Liu clarified, "My role of academic support is to help international students succeed both academically and culturally." Mrs. Liu is an excellent resource for international students because she understands and knows both Chinese

and American cultures and languages. Mrs. Liu explained, "They are in a completely new learning environment. Their knowledge needs to be activated in the new context. I'm here to help them make that process easier by strengthening their language skills and providing scaffolds." "Mrs. Diandian," as the students affectionately call her, understands the struggle international students are going through and wants to help them grow and learn in the process. Working closely with JPPII's Dean of Studies Andrew Griffith, she is seen as a great support as she assists international students with anything they need.

Having this new generation of international scholars from China has been mutually beneficial for students and for the JPPII community. Our Chinese students have become involved in many programs at JPPII as they adapt to our culture, and they also enrich our campus as they share their cultural traditions with JPPII students and host families. For

example, Chinese students invited the community to celebrate their traditional Mid-Autumn Festival, complete with moon cakes enjoyed and Chinese greetings exchanged. Mrs. Lui's hope is that her students can enrich and educate the American students as they learn about each other's cultures and traditions.



Going through the Cambridge Institute of International Education program, international students are exposed to a world of opportunities, new studies, and a wide variety of people. Host families are also enriched through the experience of inviting an international scholar into their home, and many families have chosen to host multiple international students over the years.

Three of the JPPII International Scholars shared their thoughts about their experiences in the program:

**Darren Liu**, a junior, traveled straight to the United States from China to study at Pope John Paul II High School. Not knowing much about Tennessee, Darren found it complicated getting on the plane to travel to America; therefore, for Darren, this felt like a new life with a very different environment as he left his family and friends as well as his native language. Before Darren got off the plane, he prayed for a positive experience with his host family and studies, and in the end, he received that. Darren said, "When I saw people laughing and smiling at me, it made me feel warm, and then I realized I would enjoy my time here." When Darren first joined the Hayes Family, Jennifer Hayes stated,

"Initially being with Darren, our day would consist of getting up and going around Nashville, showing him different areas, cool places to eat, and other fun things to do. Now having Darren stay here for 2 ½ years, we can say that he is genuinely a part of our family." The Hayes family even traveled to China to meet Darren's family this past summer. The Hayes family would not change this opportunity for anything else, and they would love to continue



having different international students even after Darren graduates because they love hosting and helping students find their way through JPPII. Darren has become a valuable member of JPPII's Voices uKnights, has traveled to New York City and performed at Carnegie Hall with the choir, and was recently chosen for Mid-State Choir.

**Yolanda Huang**, a current sophomore at JPPII, was in a different state before arriving in Tennessee. She began her experience in Missouri living with around 20 other Chinese students as the program looked for new host families for the students. She found comfort from first being around other students who were all experiencing the new surroundings in America together, and they quickly formed friendships during the experience. Yolanda explained a few different characteristics between China and America: "One thing I love about America is how the teachers allow you to accomplish work on your own. I have time for extracurricular activities, to hang out with my friends, and to relax at home." Although she misses her

friends and family, she loves the culture and studies of America and wouldn't change this opportunity for anything else. She loves the excellent curriculum at JPPII, and she believes that she has more opportunities to grow in her faith. Yolanda feels comfortable going to tutorials and asking for help even after school hours. She enjoys the specific help from Mrs. Liu, too. Yolanda loves her photography class and uses her photographs in her design projects on the Knights Media and Marketing staff.



**Oscar Xiong**, a junior, lived in New Jersey for two years with two different host families each academic year. This is Oscar's first year at JPPII with his third host family in America. He says all of his experiences have been positive, whether connecting at the dinner table or going on various trips with his host families. He really enjoys his less stressful schedule at JPPII. At home, Oscar attended school for almost 12 hours a day, so the transition to America was drastic for him. He found comfort at JPPII with Mrs. Liu because he says she helps the international students with anything they needed. Overall, from Oscar's perspective, he traveled to America to explore a different area of the world, new studies, and experience different people. He feels as if he has more independence to explore different interests. Oscar is a member of the JPPII Knights Media program as has developed several short-film projects and has contributed to the broadcast show during his first semester at JPPII.

For more information about becoming a host family for international scholars at JPPII, please contact Dr. Charles Wade, JPPII Director of Admissions ([charles.wade@jp2hs.org](mailto:charles.wade@jp2hs.org)).





## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

The 130 students in the Class of 2019 have been accepted to 123 colleges and universities and will be attending 50 different schools (in bold) in 17 states. They have been offered hundreds of scholarships totaling just over \$20,000,000 during their college careers. In addition, the class has volunteered over 20,000 hours of community service in Sumner and surrounding counties.



Agnes Scott College  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
The University of Alabama in Huntsville  
**The University of Alabama**  
**Anderson University**  
Appalachian State University  
**Auburn University**  
Austin Peay State University  
Ave Maria University  
Baker University  
Bard College  
**Bellarmino University**  
Belmont Abbey College  
**Belmont University**  
Berry College  
**Birmingham-Southern College**  
Brescia University  
Bryan College  
**Butler University**  
University of California, Davis  
**Carson-Newman University**  
**Carthage College**  
The Catholic University of America  
**Centre College**  
**College of Charleston**

The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina  
Clemson University  
**Coastal Carolina University**  
Colorado State University  
Columbia College Chicago  
Connecticut College  
**Cumberland University**  
**University of Dayton**  
University of Denver  
DePauw University  
Drake University  
**Earlham College**  
East Tennessee State University  
**Eastern Michigan University**  
Eckerd College  
Elon University  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Daytona Beach  
University of Evansville  
**Florida A&M University**  
Florida Southern College  
Franciscan University of Steubenville  
**Furman University**  
**University of Florida**  
**Georgetown College**  
Grand Valley State University  
Guilford College  
Hanover College  
**High Point University**  
Hofstra University  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Indiana State University  
Indiana University at Bloomington  
Iowa State University

**University of Kentucky**  
**Lipscomb University**  
**Louisiana State University**  
University of Louisville  
**Loyola University Chicago**  
**Macalester College**  
University of Mary Washington  
McKendree University  
The University of Memphis  
**Miami University, Oxford**  
**Middle Tennessee State University**  
**Millsaps College**  
Mississippi State University  
**University of Mississippi**  
**University of Missouri Columbia**  
University of Nebraska at Lincoln  
**New York University**  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
North Carolina State University  
**Northern Arizona University**  
Ohio University  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Oklahoma Wesleyan University  
Pellissippi State Technical Community College  
Pennsylvania State University  
Presbyterian College  
Purdue University  
Reed College  
Rhodes College  
Roanoke College  
University of Rochester  
Rollins College  
**Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology**

**Saint Louis University**  
**Saint Mary's College**  
**Samford University**  
Sewanee: The University of the South  
**University of South Carolina**  
Southeast Missouri State University  
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville  
St. Mary's College of Maryland  
Sweet Briar College  
**Tennessee State University**  
**Tennessee Technological University**  
**Tennessee Wesleyan University**  
**University of Tennessee, Chattanooga**  
**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**  
The Ohio State University  
Trevecca Nazarene University  
Troy University  
Tulane University  
**University of Mount Union**  
Valparaiso University  
**Vanderbilt University**  
Vassar College  
Villanova University  
Virginia Tech  
**Volunteer State Community College**  
**Wake Forest University**  
**Western Kentucky University**  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
**Wofford College**  
The College of Wooster  
**Xavier University**

\*List of college acceptances with matriculation in **bold/italics**.

# alumni UPDATES

## Class of 2006



**Megan Forrester** works as the color analyst announcer for Vanderbilt University Womens Soccer Team alongside Kevin Ingram from 104.5 *The Zone*.



**Jordan Alleyne Rippy** resides in Washington, D.C. where she is a professor of accounting at Johns Hopkins University. She received a BA/MA in accounting from Baylor University, worked two years at Ernst and Young in New York/Dallas and completed her PhD in accounting at the University of Alabama.

## Class of 2008

**Kelsey Stinnett Carlisle** married Steven Carlisle on August 17, 2019 at Cathedral of the Incarnation, Nashville. JPII alumni in the wedding party included: Jordan MacConnell; Kelsey Carver Brauer, Kaley and Christopher Stinnett. (See page 24 for wedding photo.)

## Class of 2009



(3), Gretta (2), and lives in Hendersonville.

**Natalie Beatty Parris** along with husband Eugene, owns and operates Main Street Pub & Eatery in Hendersonville, TN. Natalie has three beautiful daughters, Stella (4), Emma



**Katherine Musacchio Schafer** is currently pursuing a Doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology at Florida State University with an emphasis in suicide prevention. She is published in multiple peer reviewed journals, presented work at conferences across the country, and received multiple awards for excellency in research. She has developed clinical expertise treating survivors of sexual assault.

## Class of 2010

**Dr. Briana Keightley Franklin** is in her second year of OBGYN residency at St. Louis University in partnership with St. Mary's Hospital. Briana and husband Robert live in Kirkwood, MO. Briana earned her BA in dance from Washington University in St. Louis and her MD from the Medical College of Wisconsin.

**Alek Nochowicz** and wife Nikola are in the process of transferring to Naval Station Newport Rhode Island from Naval Station Corpus Christi for Alek's new position in the Naval Supply Corp. Alek attended Officer's Candidate School in Newport in the spring of 2017. He has achieved the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade.



**Tanner Taddeo** currently works at a financial technology start-up driving financial inclusion in emerging markets and is based in Seattle, WA. He received his BA degree in

philosophy from the College of William and Mary ('14) and a MSc degree of distinction in International Affairs from Florida State ('15). He worked in NYC with two international NGOs including stints in India and England for impact investing. He also serves as a facilitator for the United Nations Unleash program in Singapore and Shenzhen, China.

## Class of 2011



**Mary Leonard** spent 18 days of Summer 2019 traveling across Europe with a carry-on backpack reconnecting with fellow JPII alumni and friends, which included Liverpool, England (Hans

and Eleanor Broekman, inaugural JPII Headmaster) (Beatrice Makulski and Callum, '11 ~ London/JPII Exchange Program 11th Anniversary) (Tim Clavin '10



and Tanner Taddeo '10), Northern Ireland (Maddy Bologa '13), Paris, France and Oelde, Germany (Mia Timofte '17 ~ German Exchange Program).

**Kayty Nochowicz** currently resides in Nashville, is a graduate of the Aveda Cosmetology Institute and works as a stylist at Lunatic Fringe in Melrose. She received a BA degree in English Literature from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga ('15).



**Braden Smith** is currently working as a resident doctor at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio in Internal Medicine and planning to sub specialize in Pulmonary medicine. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville ('15), and valedictorian at Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine ('19). He married Brianna Cantrell on May 25, 2019.

**Morgan Roth Smith** is a RN at the same day surgery unit at Sumner Regional Medical Center in Gallatin. She graduated with a BS in Nursing and received her RN certification in 2015 from Union University. Morgan married Nathan Smith on April 22, 2017. The couple resides in Hendersonville. *(See page 24 for wedding photo.)*



**Kaley Stinnett** graduated from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, May 2019. She is currently living and practicing in the Nashville area.

## Class of 2012



**Alexander Lochlin Abdo** (right) currently works at Front Door as Technical Program Manager. He graduated from Rhodes College ('16) with a BS degree in Computer Science

and a B. A. degree in Economics, receiving the distinction of Magna Cum Laude in both disciplines. Additionally, prior to graduation he was selected for the IT Leadership Development Program Associate II with ServiceMaster.

**Trace Bandel** was sworn in by the Tennessee Supreme Court on November 7, 2019 as an attorney at law. She graduated MTSU with honors receiving a BS degree in Media and Entertainment before graduating from Belmont School of Law ('19) with a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree.



**Clay Brewer** currently attends Belmont University School of Law, Nashville, and plans to graduate in May 2020. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee where he double majored

in Russian Studies and Political Science. He travels extensively, speaks both Russian and Spanish, and attended the 2018 World Games in Russia.



**Ladd Caballero** graduated Cum Laude from Rhodes College ('16) in Memphis, TN with a major in Music with emphasis on jazz performance. He proceeded to get a Masters in Pharmacology and is currently a third year medical student at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. He continues to enjoy music and play gigs with his band, The Flying V's, in the Memphis area.

**Rachel Harrison Grisard** is employed at JPPI as the Assistant Dean of Students and Head Womens Lacrosse Coach. She married Bryan Grisard on June 14, 2019 at Community Church in Hendersonville. *(See page 24 for wedding photos.)*

**Ashlyn Keightley Miller** lives with her husband, Logan, in Forney, TX, with their two children: Bron 2½, and Emelyn, 8 months. They live on the property of Five Points Distillery, known for its award-winning Texas wheat whiskey, where Logan is the Master Distiller. Ashlyn writes a blog: The Baking Miller ([www.thebakingmiller.com](http://www.thebakingmiller.com) and @thebakingmiller). She also is the volunteer marketing lead for The Life Initiative at Watermark Community Church and serves on the audio visual team there. In addition, she is the Advisor of Learning for the Kappa Alpha Theta chapter at the University of Texas, Dallas, and in her spare time, acts in local theater and competes in mini-triathlons.



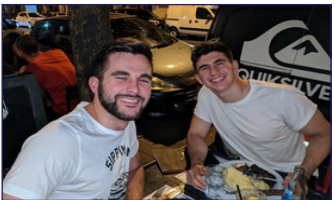
**Sean Sooker** graduated from St. Louis University in December '16 with a degree in Information Technology Management. Sean began his career as a Business Intelligence Developer at Servpro Industries in Gallatin and was recently promoted to Data Scientist working with Blackstone, a multi-national private equity firm based out of New York.

## Class of 2014



**Sterling Bishir** will graduate in December '19 from the University of Glasgow with a Masters in Scottish History. While writing her thesis, she worked for the horse and stunt department on Season 5 of the STARZ Television show "Outlander." Her sister Kensington ('19) was able to work with her on set a few days when she visited Scotland.

## Class of 2015



**Zachary Turner Abdo** (right) works for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the ALSAC department as Bilingual Project Coordinator. His territory is South America and he is

currently in Uruguay. He graduated from Rhodes College ('19) with a BA degree in Business Finance and a BA in Spanish with the distinction of Magna Cum Laude in both disciplines.

**Whit Drennan** completed his first summer playing minor league baseball after being drafted in the 29th round by the Houston Astros last May. Whit was a standout relief pitcher for Rollins College, Florida. In four seasons at Rollins, he struck out 211 batters, throwing 136.2 innings in 72 career games. As a senior, he recorded 91 strikeouts in 66.1 innings for a strikeout per nine innings rate of 12.35, the 20th best in the nation among NCAA Division II teams. Whit is preparing for his second season, which will begin in the spring.

**Meghan Sooker** works as a Business Development Associate for Salesforce in Chicago. She graduated from the University of Dayton ('19) with an International Business/Global Markets degree after studying abroad in San Sebastián, Spain and Suzhou, China. Last summer, she walked the full Camino De Santiago in Spain.

**Jacob Telli** is working for City Year Memphis as a teacher's aide in a Memphis city school. He graduated Rhodes College ('19) with a degree in philosophy and finished his baseball career by being named the Southern Athletic Association's Player of the Year. A three-year starter at catcher for the Rhodes College Lynx, Jacob also was named to the All-Conference first team. He led the conference in games played (45), plate appearances (208), walks (48), on base percentage (.570), hit by pitch (15), and on-base-plus-slugging, (1.155). Additionally, Jacob ranked in the top five in runs scored (44), triples (6), runs batted in (36), stolen bases (22), batting average (.387), slugging percentage (.585) and total bases (83). He set school and conference records for walks in a season (48) and in a career (119). He was named second team All-South Region by D3baseball.com and third team All South Region by the ABCA.

**Casey Thompson** graduated Magna Cum Laude from Centre College ('19) and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was accepted into the University of Kentucky College of Medicine.



**Taylor Williams** is currently serving in the Peace Corps for a two-year stint in Cameroon, Africa helping the needy. She graduated from Maryville College ('19) with a BS degree in Biology.

## Class of 2016

**Christopher Stinnett** is a senior at UTC and will graduate in May.

## Class of 2017



**Kieran Altenbern** attends the University of Alabama. She studied in Rome last summer where she was able to do extensive travel in Europe including Assisi, Vatican City, Athens, Tuscany, Pisa, London, the islands of Capri and Paros.





**Luke Mainello** is a junior at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga studying environmental science. He is Co-President of UTC's Climb Club and Team and currently works at the ARC Center in the Outdoors Department.

**Elizabeth "Lizzy" McAllister** is currently pursuing a Geology degree with a concentration in STEM Education at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and was recently awarded the Robert Noyce Teacher 'Full-Ride' Scholarship offered through the National Science Foundation. She is the treasurer and member of the UTC club swim team and competes in events throughout the Southeast and Midwest. She can be reached at [brm856@mocs.utc.edu](mailto:brm856@mocs.utc.edu).



**Henry McLeod** is a junior at Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas.

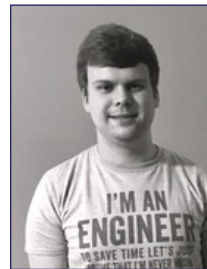


**Coby Neal** married Bailey Brown in December of 2018. He is studying through Liberty University majoring in Biblical and Theology Studies, after which he plans to attend seminary school. He is currently involved in missionary training, working in Nashville with refugees. Next summer, he will be immersed in missionary training in Europe for two years. (See page 24 for wedding photo.)



**Victoria Grace Padilla** is a junior at Belmont University. She is studying in Oregon this semester participating in the Oregon Extension. Next fall she will study abroad at the University of Oxford through the Belmont University study abroad program.

**Ella Roche** is a junior at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. While creating visual art, mostly in the medium of short film with original sound score, she has also joined the school paper as a staff writer. Her first article, "No Room in the Inn for Fair Contracts," in collaboration with student photojournalist Chelsea Emuakhagbon, was awarded first place Photo Essay by the Illinois College Press Association.  
<https://fnewsmagazine.com/2018/10/no-room-at-the-inn-for-fair-contracts/>

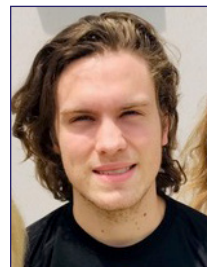


**Brady Slaughter** attends Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. He is a junior seeking a bachelor's in mechanical engineering. Brady is a one of the founding members of the 'Riddle Power Racing Series Club' and also an active member in the 'Riddle Off-Roaders Club'.

## Class of 2018

**Jackson Latham** is in his second year at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is an accounting major in the Haslam College of Business and a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

**JP Quiampang** was selected to play as the Assistant Principal Violist of the 2019 Rome Music Festival Orchestra. He performed in the RMF Orchestra for their production of Bizet's Carmen and two Opera Aria Concerts. He also served as the Principal Violist of the Chamber Orchestra for the Rome Music Festival's Masterpieces of Sacred Music Concert in Chiesa Sant'Andrea della Valle.



**Kameron Slaughter** attends the University of Alabama in Huntsville Honors College. He is a sophomore seeking a bachelor's in chemical engineering. Kameron plays for the UAH LAX team, playing both Defense (D) and Long Stick Middie (LSM) positions.

## Class of 2019



**Peyton Knight** is attending Birmingham Southern College where he is majoring in elementary special education. He is an active member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and rooming with his best friend and fraternity brother **Malcolm Hogan '19** (pictured here).

**Kathleen McLeod** is a freshman at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame. She is a member of the tennis team and is studying engineering.



**Esosa Osaitile** is a freshman at MTSU.

# JPII HOMECOMING WEEKEND

## Class of 2009 - 10 Year Reunion



Ashley Fox  
Emily Mills  
Rosie Mahoney

After the football game on Friday, JPII AlumKnights gathered at Half Batch Brewery.



Pictured Right  
Wesley Tate  
Chris Thale  
Sarah Hickam  
Marie Jayme  
Samantha Rada



Class of 2009 Reunion Planning Committee  
Matt Self  
Hunter West  
Courtney Pierpaoli  
Nossi Adriana Lamb

The class of 2009 enjoyed a competitive game of trivia together during the reunion.

Class of 2009 Private Party was held at Noble's Kitchen and Beer Hall.



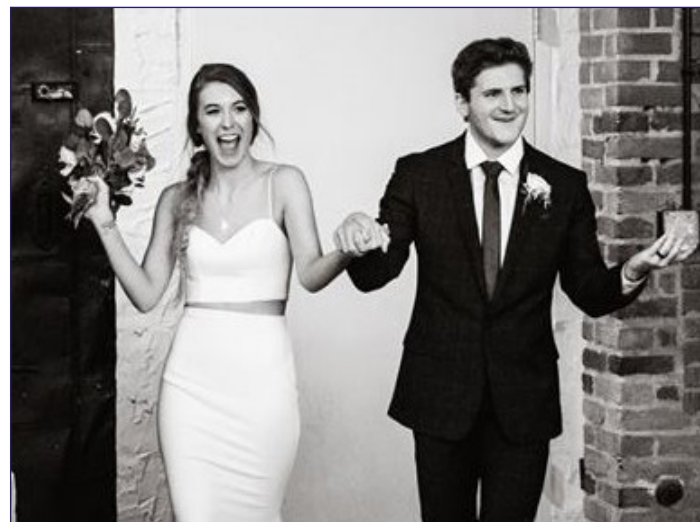
# KNUPTUALS *AlumKnights Who Tied the Knot*



*Kelsey Stinnett Carlisle '08 married Steven Carlisle on August 17, 2019 at Cathedral of the Incarnation, Nashville. JPII alumni in the wedding party included Jordan MacConnell '08, Kelsey Carver Brauer '08, and Kaley '11 and Christopher '16 Stinnett.*



*Morgan Roth Smith '11 married Nathan Smith on April 22, 2017. The couple resides in Hendersonville.*



*Coby Neal '17 married Bailey Brown (a graduate of Beech High School) in December of 2018.*



*Rachel Harrison Grisard '12 married Bryan Grisard on June 4, 2019. She is pictured here with her brothers Taylor '09 and Andrew '16 Harrison at her wedding and with Maddie Bologna '13, Evelyn Southard '13, and Emily Mills '09 at her reception.*

# POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL



# GRATITUDE REPORT

## 2017-2018





“Catholic education aims not only to communicate facts but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life, in the conviction that the truths contained in that vision liberate students in the most profound meaning of human freedom.”  
- Pope John Paul II

As a Catholic institution inspired by faith, Pope John Paul II High School prepares students to be strong in mind, body, character, and spirit for lives of learning according to the Gospel. To further this very unique mission, we are most blessed by the generosity of this community of believers. The lists herein reflect cash gifts as well as gifts-in-kind received from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018. The faculty, staff and students express heartfelt gratitude for all the gifts of time, talent, treasure and prayers received on behalf of JP II and for their direct benefit as well as for the future health of the school we all hold so dear.

Lord, please bless all those who have been good to us for your sake. Amen.

THE POPE JOHN PAUL II SOCIETY

Pope John Paul II High School recognizes, honors and thanks donors who have made permanent provisions for JP II in their estate plans.

- Anonymous
- Mrs. Joan Bernardin
- Monsignor William Bevington Estate
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shea
- Monsignor Philip Thoni Estate
- Mrs. Elizabeth Wehby Estate

KNIGHT’S COURT SOCIETY \$10,000 AND ABOVE

- |                                    |                                            |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Mr. Gordon Carroll                 | Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Locke             |
| Diocese of Nashville               | Modern Construction Corporation            |
| Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Fox, D.D.S.    | Nashville Catholic Business Women’s League |
| Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Heagarty II | Mr. and Mrs. Dan Singelyn                  |
| Ms. Allison Isaacson               | Mr. and Mrs. James Stephens                |
| Mr. Michael Isaacson               | The Memorial Foundation                    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Rick Isaacson         | Mr. and Mrs. William Wood                  |

LORDS & LADIES SOCIETY \$5,000 - \$9,999

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anonymous                     | Mr. and Mrs. McNatt        |
| Mr. and Mrs. Larry Borders    | Miracle Ford               |
| Botsko Builders, Inc.         | Pedestal Foods/TASBB, LLC  |
| Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bourget   | Mr. and Mrs. John Sooker   |
| Mr. Clark and Mrs. Goodwin    | Sumner Medical Group       |
| Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cook     | Mr. and Mrs. Golden Tate   |
| Mr. and Mrs. James Galvin Jr. | Drs. Mark and Jennifer Uhl |
| Mr. and Mrs. Tom Givens       |                            |

PAGE & SQUIRE SOCIETY \$2,500 - \$4,999

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. and Mrs. Barton K. Bagsby Sr. | Mr. and Mrs. James Mcleod       |
| Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bryant         | Our Lady of the Lake Church     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Edwards        | Mr. and Mrs. James Pelletier    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Danny Guy            | Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Price        |
| Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harper       | Taylor, Pigue & Marchetti, PLLC |
| Mr. and Mrs. Jason McGee          |                                 |

CABALLARIUS SOCIETY \$1,500 - \$2,499

- |                                        |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mr. and Mrs. William Arms Jr.          | Mark Griffith Photography             |
| Mr. Clark Baker and Dr. Carolyn Baker  | Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McCarthy          |
| Mr. and Mrs. Chad Bone                 | Ms. Karen Phillips                    |
| Mr. and Mrs. David Couch               | Mr. and Mrs. Tim Province             |
| Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Crooks             | Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Rush                |
| Mr. Samuel Dawson and Dr. Laura Dawson | Sageguard Financial Group LLC         |
| Mr. and Mrs. Corey Gardner             | Dr. and Mrs. John Shea                |
| Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gettelfinger        | Mr. and Mrs. Keith Watts              |
| Mr. and Mrs. Mike Grubbs               | Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Kirk Whittington |
| Mr. and Mrs. Victor S. Johnson III     |                                       |

COAT OF ARMS SOCIETY \$1,000 - \$1,499

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| American Chemical Society           | Spur Productions             |
| Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bagwell          | St. Joseph School            |
| Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Barber           | Mr. and Mrs. Stansell        |
| Ms. Cheryl Burgess                  | SunTrust Bank                |
| Ms. Sue Burke                       | The Boeing Company           |
| Christ The King Church              | Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Thigpen |
| Mr. and Mrs. Dave Dilick            | Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Walsh    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Dave Inman             | Mr. and Mrs. David Wells     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kolembe           |                              |
| Lattimore, Black, Morgan & Cain, PC |                              |
| Ms. Judy Lyon                       |                              |
| Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mayberry            |                              |
| Mr. and Mrs. Larry Odom             |                              |
| Mr. and Mrs. Philip Pacsi           |                              |
| Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Pearson      |                              |
| Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Phillips        |                              |
| Pinnacle Financial Partners         |                              |
| Mr. and Mrs. John Reding            |                              |
| Sam’s American Sport’s Grill        |                              |
| Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schulert         |                              |



Boots & Bling Sign Up Party

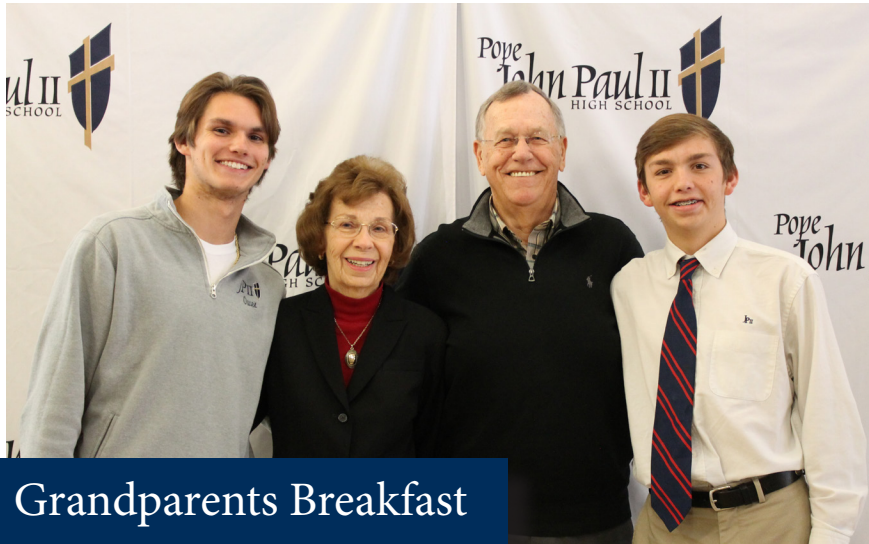


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Mr. and Mrs. Heriberto Aguilera  
Mr. and Mrs. David Albert  
Mr. Sherwood Aldrich and Dr. Kelly Aldrich  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Altenbern  
American Paper & Twine  
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Dr. Jon Backstrom and Dr. Maureen Gannon  
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Mr. and Mrs. Paul Childress  
Ms. Michelle Chronister  
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Mr. and Mrs. Dan Clark  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Clausen

Mr. Matt Clemens  
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Mr. and Mrs. Larry Dorsey  
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Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Douglas



Grandparents Breakfast

BLUE & GOLD SOCIETY UP TO \$999

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Ms. Rose Drennan  
Mr. and Mrs. Rick DuBois  
Ms. Ginger DuBose  
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Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Dye  
Ms. Meridith Dyer  
Mr. and Michael Dyer  
Rev and Mrs. Ronald Eatman  
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Ebelhar  
Dr. Eric Edds and Dr. Abigail Edds  
Deacon and Mrs. Brian Edwards  
Mr. and Mrs. James Elfers  
Ms. Meg El-Shishini  
Dr. Craig Ennis and Dr. Vickie Ennis  
Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Ernst  
Mr. James Estes  
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Eubanks  
Ms. Melinda Evans  
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Everhardt  
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Farris  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ficarro  
Mr. and Mrs. William Finley  
Dr. R. Scott Fischer and Dr. K. Fischer  
Mr. Charles Florek  
Ms. Winifred Forrester  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Foulke  
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Fowler  
Ms. Julia Franklin  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Galpin  
Mr. and Mrs. James Galvin  
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Garretson  
Dr. and Mrs. Tom Gautsch  
Ms. Amy Gaynor  
Mr. and Mrs. George Gebhardt  
Mr. Kenton Gebhardt  
Mr. Justin Geisinger  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gerber  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Gibala  
Ms. Kelly Gibbons  
Mrs. Merri Gibbs



President Ryan Duffin and Vice President Oliver Antone accept the 2018 House Cup for the House of Gregory!

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gillcrist  
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Girten  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Givens  
Mrs. Sarah Gleespen and Mr. Benjamin Gleespen  
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Glenn  
Golf Management  
Mr. and Mrs. Jorge Gonzalez  
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Goodwin  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Goodwin  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Gordon  
Mr. and Mrs. Klaus Gorschueter  
Mr. and Mrs. Donovan Grant  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gray  
Mr. Peter Gray-Whiteley and Ms. Kelly Smits  
Mr. Thomas Griffin  
Mr. Andrew Griffith  
Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Grimes  
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Ms. Macy Hanson  
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Mr. and Mrs. P. Anthony Hanson  
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Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hauck  
HCA-Caring for the Community  
Ms. Diane Heath  
Mr. Clark Henson  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Herzer  
Ms. and Mr. Kelsey Hill

Mr. and Mrs. David Hobbs  
Ms. Sheila Holman  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Holt  
Holy Rosary Church  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Horstman  
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Ms. Christine Kennard  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Kindle  
Mr. Andrew King  
Mr. and Mrs. Rod Kirk



BLUE & GOLD SOCIETY UP TO \$999



A Knight of Song with Danny Wells, Eddy Raven, Frank Myer and Jimmy Nichols

- |                                        |                                    |                                 |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ms. Joyce Kirshner                     | M.R. Foundation of Tennessee, Inc. | Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mocko      |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Steven Leonard            | Mr. Bryan Melcher                  | Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Owens        |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Long                | Mr. and Mrs. Salvador Mendoza      | Mr. and Mrs. Robert Page        |
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| LSI                                    | Ms. Shirley Metcalfe               | Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Panozzo     |
|                                        | Mr. and Mrs. John Minichan         | Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Parker |
|                                        |                                    | Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Parker     |

BLUE & GOLD SOCIETY UP TO \$999

- |                                   |                                          |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Patrick       | Ms. Carol Ann Rosselli                   | Mr. and Mrs. Ron and Jennifer Smith |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Patterson    | Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rucker               | Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smotherman     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Michael Patton       | Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sabash              | Mr. Bob Sneed                       |
| Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Pearson      | Mr. and Mrs. Paul Saboe                  | Mr. and Mrs. David Snow             |
| Mr. and Mrs. John Peel            | Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sanger              | Ms. Susan Snyder                    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Mark Pennington      | Mr. Skip Sawyer                          | Mr. and Mrs. Solarz                 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Brad R. Peper        | Mr. and Mrs. John Schaffhouser           | Mr. and Mrs. Steve Southard         |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Curt Reamy           | Mr. and Mrs. Chris Simpson               | Mr. and Mrs. Gary Sullivant         |
| Mr. and Mrs. Brian Reed           | Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Simpson               | Dr. and Mrs. Chad Swan              |
| Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Reep          | Mr. Daniel M. Singelyn                   | Mr. and Mrs. L. Michael Syper       |
| Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Remke        | Mr. and Mrs. Pat Singer                  | Mr. and Mrs. Bill Szocska           |
| Mr. and Mrs. George Reynolds      | Mr. Fred Singleton Jr.                   | Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Tanner         |
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| Ms. Elizabeth A. Roach            | Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smart               | Ms. Shara E. Terrill                |
| Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Robinson     |                                          | The Kula Foundation                 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Roche         |                                          | Mr. Brian Thomas                    |



Nashville Catholic Business Women’s League Aurelia Varallo Scholarship



Memorial Foundation Service Grant



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Golden Tate '07 Football Camp



TATE SCHOLARS FUND



2018 Tate Scholars:  
Antwan Roberts '21, Keonna Chumbley '21,  
Kaelyn Bullard '21, Brendon Keaton '20,  
Hugh Gebhardt '21, Matthew Shipley '21  
(not pictured)



Marc Mariani and Dean of Admissions &  
Advancement Michelle Barber

PRESENTING SPONSOR  
The Kevin & Kathy McNatt Family  
Parents of Lille McNatt '18

GOLDEN SPONSORS  
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Mr. Tom & Mrs. Marcia McCarthy | USA Football



'17-18 JPII Knights Football Team, Cheerleaders,  
and Dance Team



SWEET SIXTEEN GALA & AUCTION



Bishop J. Mark Spalding  
with Dr. Jenny Uhl, Michelle  
Barber and Mike Deely

Honoring  
2008 State Championship Bowling Team  
with Head Coach Therese (Griner) Haluska  
and Current Head Coach John Reding  
Mr. Paul Saboe & the Model UN Alumni  
Dr. Chad Swan & our Innov8 Mentors

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Friends  
Larry & Terri Borders • Vanessa & Brian Silkwood • John & Elizabeth Melcher • Glenn & Lisa Farris  
Charles & Maureen Sanger • Bill & Janine Szocska • Knowles & Rebecca Shaw

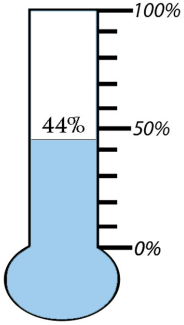
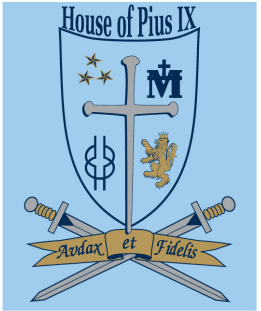
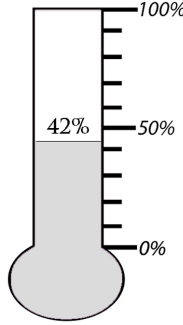
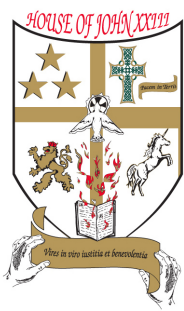
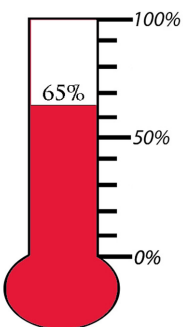
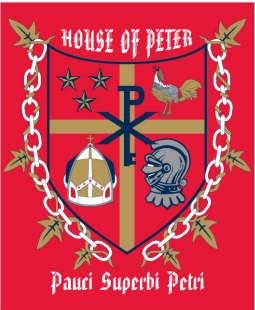
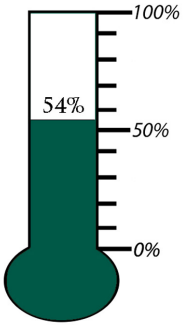
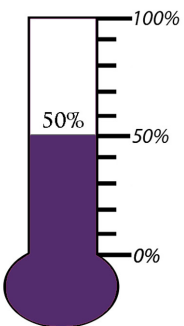
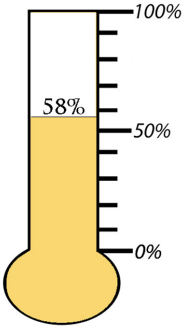


2008 Bowling Coaches



Dr. Chad Swan &  
Innov8 Mentors

FUND FOR EXCELLENCE PARENT PARTICIPATION - 2017-2018 CAMPAIGN TOTALS



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