



JPII's 2009 graduates were accepted to 169 different colleges and universities and were offered 12.2 million dollars in scholarships (an average of \$77,420 per graduate). Eleven members of this class were accepted to Vanderbilt University.

The class of 2009 had an average ACT score of 25.3, a top decile score of 31.7, and a top quartile score of 30.3

AS PARENT AND EMPLOYEE, LORI JONES LOVES JP II

Lori Jones always thought she would end up working in the corporate world, not a high school. But that all changed when she and her husband, Jeff Jones, went looking for a school for daughter Natalie Beatty in 2005.



Lori Jones

When the Jones' heard about JPII, Mrs. Jones brought her daughter to the campus to check out the school and was wowed by what she saw of the facility and the program. But more importantly, she said, "It was the feeling we got when we were here. You felt the sense of community. We just felt connected right away."

Not only was Mrs. Jones sold on the school for Natalie, but for herself. "I was so excited about the school I said, 'Do you have any jobs?'"

And soon after she was working as the assistant to the director of admissions at JPII. A few months later, her husband Jeff joined the JPII family as a theology teacher.

Talking to parents about sending their children to JPII came easily to her, Mrs. Jones said. "There was no 'sale' to it. I could share my experience as a parent. I still feel excited about it."

Most parents considering JPII for their children have the same goal, Mrs. Jones said. "They want their kids to be prepared for college."

The sense of community that so attracted her to JPII is still a powerful lure for parents and students, Mrs. Jones said. "When you take them on a tour they feel it too."

Last spring, Mrs. Jones took on a new job at JPII. She now serves as JPII's advancement officer. Her responsibilities include writing grant applications, public relations for the school, writing a blog about what's going on at JPII, taking photos of school activities and other tasks involved in promoting JPII in the community.

One of her top priorities is helping to run the school's annual Fund For Excellence Campaign, which kicked off with activities before the first home football game of the season on Aug. 21 against Clarksville.

The Fund For Excellence is an important fundraiser for JPII. Proceeds from the campaign help pay for important programs like the Christian Service Internship, which is one of JPII's signature programs through which students contribute more than 26,000 hours of community service each year. The campaign also helps pay for need-based tuition assistance and for the retention and recruitment of JPII's outstanding teachers.

The goal this year, like last year, is \$325,000. That is the amount that is included in the budget each year, Mrs. Jones noted. "We have to have that \$325,000 to make everything work." Last year, the campaign exceeded the goal and raised \$348,000.

A brochure explaining the campaign and asking for donations has been mailed out to all the families at JPII, and that mailing will be followed up in November by a phone-a-thon, Mrs. Jones said.

In promoting the school in the community, Mrs. Jones said, it's clear that JPII has a well-deserved reputation for academic excellence. "That's what you hear the most." It's part of what brought Mrs. Jones to JPII and part of what keeps her here. "I love it here."



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71 JPII STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AS AP SCHOLARS

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Allison Isaacson, Allison Long, Emily Mills, Caitlin Mitchell, Jackson Mooneyham, Margaret Noah, Hayley Pionk, Kayce Resha, Anna Robertson, Margaret Ross, Haley Seger, Libba Smith, Shannon Swearingen, Sarah Tompkins, and Jeremy Wilson.

■ Ten students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams: Benjamin Booker, Jacob Bourget, Tynan Dilick, Reed Gonzalez, Thomas Griffin, Lukasz Krahel, Ryan Moore, Hailey Rowe, Alex Simpson, and Emily Ward.

■ Thirty-four students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher: Anna Caroline Bachstein, John Balkon, Shelby Bosi, Sarah Bourget, Kathleen Callahan, Julia Gala Cude, Gabriella Del Gandio, Nathan Forester, Lauren Fowler, Calan Fuqua, Kathryn George, Eleanor Gibson, William Gilstrap, Jillian Hinesley, Bryant Holt, Philipp Horsthemke, Frances Jayme, Ryan Kilpatrick, Joseph Kimball, Anthony Kirby, Maria Massa, Mitchell Mayberry, Finnian McCarthy, Katherine Musacchio, Alex Nieters, Taylor Norton, Dymphna Nuestro, Gabrielle Pare, Logan Roach, Gregory Seals, Christopher Thale, Laura Walden, Amy Wiggington, and Breanna Wood.

Of this year's award recipients at JPII, 18 are juniors, who have one

more year in which to complete college-level work and possibly earn more awards. In the last two years, 152 students at JPII have been named AP Scholars and 43 have scored perfect "fives" on the AP Calculus exams. More than one-third of the student body takes at least one AP test at JPII, and approximately 60 percent of the graduating class of 2009 passed one or more AP exams.

Golf tourney to benefit JPII athletics

The Pope John Paul II High School Athletic Booster Club will host the Seventh Annual Golf Tournament on Oct. 23, 2009, at Through the Green Highland Rim Golf Course in Joelton.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The day will include golf, prizes to the top groups in three flights, gift packets, and lunch. The cost includes: \$100/person (includes golf and BBQ); \$400/foursome (includes golf and BBQ); \$150 Hole Sponsor; \$600 Navy Sponsor (includes one foursome, hole sponsor, program/GPS ad); \$1,500 Prize Sponsor (includes one foursome, banner, hole sponsor, program/GPS ad, JPII Army gift certificate). Proceeds will benefit the school's athletic program.

Brochures with additional information and registration forms are available on the JPII High School website: <http://www.jp2hs.org/index.cfm>. For more information, contact Charlie Guerry at 461-8777 or cguerry@aol.com.



OCTOBER 2009

Headmaster Faustin Weber ■ 615-822-2375 ■ www.jp2hs.org

JPII TEACHER STATE FINALIST FOR NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Luke Diamond, a physics teacher at Pope John Paul II High School, has been selected as one of two finalists from Tennessee for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The award, established by Congress in 1983, is the highest recognition a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

Mr. Diamond's nomination as one of two science teachers from Tennessee selected as finalists now moves to the national level for evaluation by a selection committee of prominent mathematicians, scientists, mathematics/science educators, and past awardees, chosen by the National Science Foundation to make the final recommendation.

One hundred and eight math and science teachers, one of each from every state and the four U.S. jurisdictions, will receive the award. Winners will receive a citation signed by the president of the United States, a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, gifts from program sponsors from around the country, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

71 JPII STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AS AP SCHOLARS

Seventy-one students at Pope John Paul II High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on exams for Advanced Placement classes taken through last spring.

About 18 percent of the nearly 1.7 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams. At JPII:

■ One student, Margaret Noah, qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or

higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Margaret also was the only student from JPII to qualify as a National Merit semi-finalist this year.

Mr. Diamond teaches conceptual physics to freshman and Advanced Placement physics to seniors at JPII. He also serves as the associate dean of Freshman Year of Studies, a new program at JPII to help freshmen transition into high school.

Mr. Diamond earned a B.S.E. in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the University of Michigan and a secondary education certification for physics and mathematics from Oakland University in Michigan. He began teaching at JPII in 2003.

■ Twenty-six students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams: Bryan Adcock, Bradford Barrett, Andreas Bunjor, Nicholas Cherry, Richard Corazza, Taylor Dean, Patrick Deffendall, Hilary Dennen, Collier Gailmard, Emily Griggs, Sarah Hickam,



Luke Diamond



THIS ISSUE:

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JPII AT KNIGHT

LORI JONES

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UPCOMING EVENTS

PLACEMENT EXAMS

8:30 A.M.-NOON
 OCT. 24
 NOV. 14
 DEC. 12
 JAN. 13
 CALL 822-2375
 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Schedule
 'Coffee with the Headmaster'

The families of prospective students are invited to share "Coffee with the Headmaster." Every Tuesday, 8:30-9:30 a.m., JPII Headmaster Faustin Weber will be available to share coffee and conversation with anyone interested in learning more about the school. Select faculty and students will also be on hand to answer questions and talk about the school's curriculum, the admission process, the school's Catholic/Christian values, and the culture of scholarship at JPII. For more information, call the school's admissions office at (615) 822-2375 or send an e-mail to info@jp2hs.org.

View Points

Aviation Club is new offering at JPII

Chris Findley, Theology Department Chair and an FAA-approved flight instructor, has started an Aviation Exploring Post at JPII this year. This new club will help students investigate aviation related careers including commercial flying, military flying, air traffic control, airport management, and fixed base operations.



This group, co-sponsored by the Boy Scouts, is co-ed and Mr. Findley hopes to have guest speakers and field trips as a part of the program. "The program is designed to be very hands on – to visit the towers in Nashville, to see the flight training program at MTSU, talk and get to know people in the industry and some of the different options available to the students."

Mr. Findley recently was recertified as a flight instructor, which required hours of ground and flight training, learning to teach student pilots all the fundamentals of a safe flight. "I flew all through high school and majored in aviation in college at Auburn," Mr. Findley said. "I was a licensed flight instructor when I was 24, but after graduating college, life just became too busy to keep it up. As the years went by I kept thinking about flying. I decided to get the recertification and begin teaching flying again."

Mr. Findley has flown a number of single and twin-engine planes including a 1946 Cessna 140. He began flying after a family friend took him up for a short flight over their house when he was 10. As a teen, he was involved in the Civil Air Patrol, the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force that flies search and rescue and relief missions around the country.

"My parents were supportive but a little nervous as you might expect," Mr. Findley said. "I soloed when I was 16 and earned my private pilot's license when I was 17 – the youngest age the FAA allows."

While in the aviation program at Auburn, Mr. Findley received his commercial, instrument, instructor, and multi-engine ratings.

JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

We hope to highlight the high school careers of some of our students with reference to their "feeder school."

Holy Rosary Academy

Stefanie Hinesley and Devin Scott are two of six students from Holy Rosary Academy in this year's freshman class at Pope John Paul II High School. But they haven't wasted any time making new friends at their new school.

Stefanie, who is a member of the JPII freshman volleyball team, was able to start meeting some of her new classmates over the summer at the school's summer volleyball camp. And "freshman retreat helped tremendously" in introducing her to new people, she said.



Stefanie Hinesley

At JPII, each class has a different group of students, Stefanie said. "So you meet a lot of new people there."

Sports also provided a good way for Devin to meet new people, he said. He made a lot of new friends during summer workouts and conditioning for the football team. And, like Stefanie, the freshman retreat provided a great way for Devin to meet a lot of people, he said. "It was a lot of fun."



Devin Scott

Moving from Holy Rosary to high school has meant some changes for Stefanie, Devin and all their classmates. "But it's easy to get used to," Stefanie said. "It's definitely a lot different, but it's a good different. I definitely feel challenged."

"It's very different," agreed Devin.

Students are required to do a lot more writing in their classes than they're probably used to, he said. And it's "a lot more challenging." But Devin's OK with challenges, he said. "It's just a lot more fun."

For any students thinking about coming to JPII next year, Devin said, "It's an amazing school to come to."

Stefanie echoed that sentiment. "I'd tell them it's a great school."

JPII People ... Stefanie Hinesley and Devin Scott!

ALUMNI NEWS

GRADS RETURN FOR HOMECOMING VISIT



Some recent JPII graduates return to the "Shining City on the Hill" to enjoy the 2009 Homecoming activities. Also on hand were graduates Wesley Tate, below left, and Taylor Ramsey, below right.

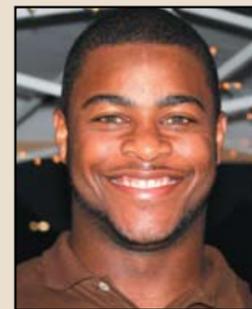
HOMECOMING 2009 A BIG SUCCESS

Despite soggy grounds and a little bit of mud there were lots of smiles and catching up going on as JPII's alumni came back to campus for the 2009 Homecoming festivities and football game on Friday, Sept. 25.

A good number of fans showed up for the Knights' 48-9 win over East Hamilton High School. At halftime, the homecoming court was presented and senior Hillary Guinn was crowned the 2009 Homecoming Queen.

The evening began with a barbecue buffet open to the community and sponsored by the Knight Club, the school's new athletic booster organization.

It was great to see some of our recent graduates and invite them back anytime!



A queen and her court

Senior Hillary Guinn was crowned JPII's 2009 Homecoming Queen. Her court and their escorts included: (seated from left) Elizabeth Griggs, Taylor Hinson, Leslie Deakins, Guinn, Taylor Norton, Leah Loven, and Courtney Sims, (standing from left) Alex Matheny, Brad Whitmer, Jon Gautsch, Tim Clavin, Alex Nieters, Clark Henson, and Patrick Griffin.



KEEPING UP WITH YOUR CLASSMATES

Class of 2005

Stevie Molnar graduated with a degree in Applied Mathematics and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy on May 22. His service selection is Nuclear Submarines. He is currently stationed in Charleston, S.C., and is in Nuclear Power School.

Mark Fyke is a U.S. Marine and currently deployed in Iraq.

Ryan Whipkey was commissioned as a Sheriff's Deputy on Aug. 7, 2009, with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department

Billy Vaughn is attending the University of Tennessee-Knoxville Graduate School for Business.

Lauren West will be attending graduate school at University of Alabama for Speech Pathology.

Laura Birdwell graduated from MTSU on Aug. 8, 2009 with a degree in Public Relations/Recording Industry.



Stevie Molnar with his brother Danny at his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy.

Class of 2006

Brenna Davis studied in Chile this past summer.

Alex Wilkins is in North Carolina until mid-December involved with a co-op job as part of his engineering studies. He's been in Asheville since May 9 and has enjoyed the work. He'll go back to UT-Knoxville in January.

Logan Spiva, a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, spent the summer traveling to Hawaii, Seattle, Vancouver, and Ghana, Africa. He is currently in Beijing, China, as an exchange student for the fall semester. After he returns, he'll begin graduate school in January at Johns Hopkins University, while still attending the Naval Academy. He will be commissioned in May, finish graduate school in December and then move to Charleston, S.C., to start in the Navy's nuclear program.



Class of 2007

Danny Molnar is a junior at Tennessee Tech majoring in Marketing. He ran in the Music City Half Marathon last April and participated in a triathlon in Lebanon.

Class of 2008

Will McMillan trained at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in the Project Opportunity Program. He recently graduated from the program and began interning in the outpatient department. His job responsibilities include greeting patients and families, as well as organizing binders that stay with the patients during their stay in the hospital. He has been offered a job with the department since his internship has gone so well.

Jeanne Gavigan has been accepted to Vanderbilt University's Next Step Program, a post-secondary program for students with intellectual disabilities. This is a brand new program and once again Jeanne will be pioneering the way for other students. She will begin in January.



Andrew Holt was married on Sept. 26 to Natalie Cox.

It was great to see many of you on campus this past summer. We know that you have good news to share and would love to include it in future newsletters. If you have not already done so, please go to http://www.jp2hs.org/alumni_add.cfm?master=351620&cfm=end to add or update your information on the JPII website Alumni Page. You can also e-mail your good news to Jo Lind Weaver at jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org

All JPII alumni who will be home for the Thanksgiving holidays are invited to come see the Knights battle on the basketball court against Christian Community School on the Friday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 27. The girls game starts at 6:30 p.m. and the boys at 8 p.m. Hope to see you there!