



KNIGHTS CROWN A QUEEN

Jacqui Ramos, the 2013 JPPI Homecoming Queen, is congratulated by last year's queen, Holly Gibbens. For more, see the story on page 3.

FOUR STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

Four students from Pope John Paul II High School have been named National Merit semifinalists: Raina Devrai, Susanna Edwards, Emily McRen and Katarina Swaringen. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$35 million that will be offered next spring.

The students named as semifinalists are among approximately 16,000 across the nation to earn that designation by the National Merit Scholarship program based on their results on the 2012

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Four seniors have been named National Merit semifinalists: (L-R) Raina Devrai, Susanna Edwards, Katarina Swaringen and Emily McRen.



A KNIGHT'S TALE



JPPI ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



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View Points

WE ARE INDEED A CITY ON A HILL

I read a book recently that was set in Puritan Boston in the late 1600s. There was a specific quote that stuck out to me, "To live as a city on a hill, to which all may come and know of God's great love."

Many in our community refer to JPPI as the "city on the hill" and I believe that we embody the above sentiment. I believe we are a school where all may come to know of God's great love. As our motto says, "Faith leads us beyond ourselves," and it is with this faith that we are able to manifest God's love to all those we encounter.

JPPI is a place where ripples begin. We educate our students here to not only know the correct sentence composition, or the scientific method, or which muscle groups to strengthen, but we are educating our students to become good people. People of faith and conviction and integrity. We care deeply about the personal development of individual students so that their light may shine from the hill.

The faculty and staff have an incredible sense of faith that empowers them to go beyond themselves to educate the whole person. Teachers don't simply show up and stay in their own classrooms. They attend athletic events, the plays or musicals, the art show. I feel privileged to work with a group of people so deeply committed to educating young people.

The parents of our students have laid the foundation for these phenomenal young people, and it is our pleasure to add water to the rich soil of their lives so they may continue to blossom and bear fruit. We get to see their faith lived out in the community. We get to see them know God's love and share it with others. We are indeed a City on a Hill.

Kat Morris is a theology teacher and the House of Leo House Master.



Kat Morris

JPPI HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL MODEL UN CONFERENCE

On Saturday, Aug. 31, the Pope John Paul II High School Model United Nations team hosted its second annual JPPI Model UN Conference.

Building upon the first conference, which involved 26 JPPI students in 2012, 62 students from JPPI, Ensworth, Harpeth Hall, and Station Camp sacrificed part of their 2013 Labor Day weekend to tackle the pressing issues of nuclear weapons proliferation and the chemical weapons attack in Damascus, Syria.

Led by co-chair Caleb Pracht, a senior, and co-chair Lucas Pulliza, a senior and student body president, and assisted by Social Attaché Gina Botsko, a senior and Veritas Council President, the conference taught the participating students how the real United Nations works by guiding them through the rigors of speaking under the rules of parliamentary procedure and the process of resolution writing and advocacy.

During the afternoon sessions, the delegates focused on the crisis in Syria, responding to hypothetical events like a Syrian chemical weapons attack on the USS Stout, a guided missile destroyer really in the Syrian area, and U.S. President Barack Obama seeking congressional approval for a possible nuclear response.

During the closing ceremony, awards were presented for Best Position Paper to JPPI freshman Lauren Baugh, for Best Delegate to Ensworth student Blair Wilson, JPPI sophomores Miranda MacNaughton (Honorable Mention) and Collins Brown (Honorable Mention), and for Delegate's Choice to JPPI sophomores Collins Brown, Miranda MacNaughton (Honorable Mention), and Phillip Baker (Honorable Mention), and Ensworth student Blair Wilson (Honorable Mention).

The JPPI team hosted this event as a training conference, especially for the 34 JPPI participants who had never participated in a Model UN simulation before. With this experience in hand, the JPPI team, now 98 members strong (and still growing), is much better prepared to compete at the Vanderbilt Model UN Conference and Arkansas Model UN Conference in November and at the University of Florida Conference in January.



UPCOMING EVENTS

VETERAN'S DAY CONCERT

7 P.M.
TUESDAY
NOV. 11

Tailgate to benefit Hand in Hand

Before the football teams of Father Ryan High School and Pope John Paul II High School meet on the field to battle for the Bishop's Cup on Thursday, Oct. 17, fans of both teams can share some good food and fun all to benefit the Hand in Hand program at JPPI for students with intellectual disabilities.

A tailgating party outside the main gates to the Jim Carell Athletic Complex at JPPI is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. the evening of the game. The event is sponsored by the booster clubs at both schools the Knight Athletic Club at JPPI and the 12th Man Club at Father Ryan.

The event will feature brats, burgers, sides, deserts and drinks, and all proceeds will benefit the Hand in Hand Program, which is in its 10th year.

JACQUI RAMOS CROWNED HOMECOMING QUEEN

Homecoming Week hit its highlight when senior Jacqui Ramos was crowned as Homecoming Queen at halftime of the Knights' football game against Battle Ground Academy.

Ramos is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Michael Ramos and serves as the house president of the House of Pius IX. This was Ramos' second year to be on the homecoming court.

She is a very talented violinist. Not only does she play the violin at JPPI's weekly mass but also she is a principal violinist of Curb Youth Symphony and she was the 2012 Concerto competition winner for the Murfreesboro Symphony Orchestra. During her spare time she enjoys playing the violin, piano and composing music.

She was escorted by Josh Gutierrez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgardo Gutierrez.

The other senior attendants were: Natalie Cannella, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Greg Cannella and escorted by Daniel Al-Nimri; and Paige Scheriger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Todd Scheriger and escorted by Austin Hayes.

The junior attendants were: Hallie Lycans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stroud Lycans and escorted by Ben Carter; and Katherine Willoughby, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Willoughby and escorted by Jacob Telli.

The sophomore attendant was Emma Grace Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Evans and escorted by Garrett Taylor, and the freshman attendant was Gabrielle Tarbuck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve



Senior attendants for the 2013 Homecoming Court, from left, Natalie Cannella and her escort Daniel Al-Nimri, Jacqui Ramos, and Paige Scheriger and her escort Austin Hayes, await their introduction during halftime of the homecoming game against Battle Ground Academy. Jacqui Ramos' escort, Josh Gutierrez, is standing behind Natalie Cannella.

Tarbuck and escorted by Chris Alfieri.

Homecoming was a weeklong event beginning with the announcement of the homecoming court and continuing with the themed dress down days and competition for the best door decoration by an advisory group – won by Ms. Abby Drumright's class. The Knights won the homecoming game, 10-7 over BGA, and the week ended Saturday night with the Homecoming Dance.



The 2013 Homecoming Court included, from left, freshman attendant Gabrielle Tarbuck and escort Chris Alfieri, junior attendant Katherine Willoughby and escort Jacob Telli, senior attendant Paige Scheriger, Queen Jacqui Ramos and escort Josh Gutierrez, senior attendant Natalie Cannella, junior attendant Hallie Lycans and escort Ben Carter, and sophomore attendant Emma Grace Evans and escort Garrett Taylor.

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Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Two more students, Caleb Pracht and Luke Price, have been named National Commended Students on the basis of the PSAT. They are among the nation's top 50,000 highest scoring seniors.

The nationwide pool of semifinalists represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a finalist, semifinalists and their high school must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record

throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From the approximately 16,000 semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level, which will make them eligible for a variety of scholarships.



Luke Price, left, and Caleb Pracht were named National Commended Students.

JPII COLLOQUIUM TO FOCUS ON ECUMENISM, ISLAM

The challenges American-Muslims face and how Christians and Muslims can work together toward a mutual understanding will be the topic of this year's colloquium sponsored by Pope John Paul II High School.

The colloquium, "To Work Toward Mutual Understanding: The American-Muslim Experience and the Catholic Response," scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, in the school's Monroe and Ann Carell Auditorium, will feature Dr. Todd Green from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and Dr. Ossama Bahloul from the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro.

Green's presentation, "Islamophobia: Imagining the Muslim Enemy," will explore the problem of Islamophobia in the West by addressing its origins, defining features, and its relationship to racism and other prejudices. More specifically, he will look at the ways Islamophobia differs from legitimate disagreements with Islamic beliefs and practices.

Green will also address how the Catholic Church has functioned in helping to combat Islamophobia and build better relations with the Islamic faith.

Bahloul, a nationally recognized and local imam, will give a presentation

entitled, "Building Bridges." Bahloul will discuss from his personal experience the various stereotypes Muslims face in America and propose ways for peoples of the Abrahamic traditions to build interfaith relationships.

Bahloul has been the Imam of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro since April 2008, during which time the center's efforts to build a new facility has prompted harsh opposition from some in the community. While serving in Murfreesboro, Bahloul has established numerous community activities and encouraged community involvement of all ages.

This year's colloquium, in celebration of the school's "Pope Week," focuses on ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, a pivotal teaching and legacy of Blessed Pope John Paul II. It takes its title from the Second Vatican Council's Declaration, "Nostra Aetate."

The goal of the colloquium is to continue encouraging the Second Vatican Council's urge "to preserve as well as to promote together ... social justice and moral welfare, as well as peace and freedom," as stated in the Vatican II document "Nostra Aetate."

The colloquium is open and free to the public.

COLLEGE FAIR SETS RECORD

Representatives from more than 150 colleges and universities came to JPII on the morning of Sept. 26 for the school's College Fair, sponsored by the JPII College Counseling office. It was the most number of schools ever.

"Traditionally, the College Fair has been a great window into some universities that our students may not otherwise consider," said Headmaster Faustin Weber. "It says a lot about how desirable our students are to these universities that they come here in such large numbers. My congratulations to Mr. Mike Brown, the director of our College Counseling program, for setting this up every year."



Seniors Ally Jenkins, Gunnar Scholato, Jocquise Upton and Logan Fletcher got a chance to explore college options during this year's JPII College Fair.

JIM CARELL REMEMBERED FOR 'REMARKABLE' GENEROSITY TO JPII

Pope John Paul II High School lost a valued friend with the recent death of Jim Carell, a well known Nashville businessman and philanthropist. Among Mr. Carell's numerous donations to Catholic educational institutions were several to JPII, including more than \$2 million to pay for the football stadium project.

"We lost a great advocate ... in the passing of Mr. Jim Carell," JPII Headmaster Faustine Weber said in a letter to parents. "Mr. Carell's generosity to JPII has been remarkable. With his backing, we've been able to renovate our weight rooms with state of the art equipment, turf our upper stadium, build an eight-lane track, create a bathroom/concession/pavilion building, establish a courtyard for outdoor events and do a significant amount of landscaping. The effect has been transformational.

"His only instructions to me in that entire undertaking? 'Build enough bathroom stalls for the women. I hate seeing women standing in line with pained expressions on their face.' Such was Mr. Carell's practical wisdom!" Mr. Weber said.

"The dedication ceremony for the Jim Carell Complex during our first football game in 2011 was quite memorable. Father William Bevington, now deceased, led us in prayer and sprinkled the field with holy water, white robes flowing as he was whisked around the perimeter of the field in a golf cart. Standing at the 50 yard line, Mr. Carell, choking with emotion, told our students: 'God has been good to me. It gives me great pleasure to give you this.'



Jim Carell addresses the crowd during the dedication of the Jim Carell Complex at JPII.

"Mr. Carell was generous beyond his fortunes. Countless times, he hosted me in his home at my request, as I sought his advice on a host of issues. He was always gracious to receive me, always practical in his advice, always interested in helping JPII become an even better school. I will miss him as a mentor and as a friend. May his soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed, rest in peace. Amen."

VOLLEYBALL SETS NEW RECORD FOR WINS IN SEASON

The JPII volleyball team just completed its most successful season ever, going 22-19. "We're actually really proud of that," said Coach Kim Shaver. The previous record for most wins in a season was 18. "Our goal this year was to get to 20 wins."

Besides the 22 wins, the Knights also had several notable finishes in tournaments during the season, including a second place finish at the White County Tournament. The team also posted strong results in the pool play at two area tournaments that earned it a spot in the Gold Division in the Bison Bash at Station Camp High School and the Middle Tennessee Classic at A-Game Sports Complex.



Senior Chelsey Smith returns the ball during a volleyball match against Father Ryan.

The Knights got off to a flying start with a 10-1 record, but then struggled in the tough Division II-AA East/Middle Region, which boasts some of the strongest teams in the state in Baylor, Ensworth, Girls Preparatory School and Father Ryan.

JPII has produced the Sumner County Player

of the Year for three of the last four years, Coach Shaver noted, but the team wanted to add to those individual achievements success as a program. "We're proud to see some really good progress this year," she said.

The team lost all but one starter from last year's team: senior Chelsey Smith, an outside hitter. This year, she was joined by fellow seniors Helen Shaw and Megan Gerstner, two middle hitters. Shaw's season was cut short by an illness, which set the team back a bit, Coach Shaver said. "She was doing some really great things for us."

The team relied on a lot of younger players this year, including juniors Megan Reding, Blythe Clausen, Bailey Rankin and Taylor Williams. "We have eight in the sophomore class that are all really strong," Coach Shaver said. "We're excited about the energy they can bring to the program."

Sophomore Savannah Brown started as the team's setter. "She's done a really good job," Coach Shaver said. Other sophomore contributors include: Savannah Lewis, Macy Hanson, Catherine Bagwell, Callie Ryan, Madison Farris and Emily Galluzzi.

Chelsey Smith, Taylor Williams and Savannah Lewis were all part of JPII's softball team that finished second in the state last spring. That experience helped the volleyball team, Coach Shaver said. "They brought a lot of excitement to our team," she said. With their experience of playing for a state championship, "they're not afraid of pressure situations."

Coach Shaver is assisted by Connie Rogan. She just completed her fifth year at JPII and she is hopeful this year's success will help the program continue to develop.

MR. BROWN WORKS TO HELP STUDENTS FIND THEIR DREAM

Mike Brown's decision to become a college counselor at a high school has its roots in the help he received from the college counselor at his high school. "I grew up in the Nashville area and had a great college counselor at University School. Janet Schneider is still a college counselor and a mentor to me," said Mr. Brown, who is in his ninth year as director of college counseling at JP II.



Mike Brown

During his search for a college that would be the best fit for him, he did a lot of research, Mr. Brown said. "I found college to be this totally exciting prospect. Janet Schneider stuck with me and helped me realize that potential," he said. "What a great thing to do to help kids find that dream."

After working in the business world and for the Boy Scouts for several years after graduating from Birmingham Southern University, Mr. Brown decided to go back to school to earn a master's in counseling. He was working as a college counselor at Battle Ground Academy, when the position at JP II became open. When the school's founding headmaster Hans Broekman called him about the job, "I jumped at

the chance," Mr. Brown said. "I felt like the energy and direction JP II was going was a place where I wanted to be."

Mr. Brown started in the fall of 2005, and over the years has worked to grow the program. The school now has two college counselors, himself and John Dempsey, who work with students, helping to guide them through the college application process. He worked to make JP II a testing site for both the SAT and ACT tests, and started College Application Saturdays to help seniors start the process of filling out college applications. He also visits English classes to give students tips on writing college application essays. The college fair hosted by JP II each fall has continued to grow, and this year more than 150 colleges and universities participated, the most ever.

The College Counseling Office also hosts events to help parents understand the college search process and the application process for scholarships and financial aid. "I'm trying to be an advocate for students in the application process," Mr. Brown said. "We want to find the right match for each student."

Mr. Brown's commitment to JP II started as a parent of a student and continues as an employee. "I love working with the faculty and staff. I've worked with administrators who have a great vision for the school," he said.

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