



## WELCOME BACK



Seniors Nicole Kirby, right, and Cathleen Humm greet each other on the first day of classes for the 2014-15 school year.

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS GROWING

Pope John Paul II High School welcomed this year four new students from across the globe. The students, all from China, are part of the school's International Scholars program.

"There are plenty of kids who want to come" to the United States, said John Cooper, an admissions officer at JPPII. "A lot of them want to go to college in the United States" and completing their high school years here, where they can learn the language and the culture, is seen as a big benefit toward that goal, he added.

The four new students are: Zhouqi (Alex) He, a junior;

Haoming Ning, a sophomore; Kexia (Kira) Niu, a sophomore and the only girl; Maoyand (David) Qiu, a sophomore. They have joined JPPII's returning International Scholars Bob Shin, Sean Hua, Remilia Li, Chu Chu and Yuntaek Oh.

JPPII is hoping to grow the program, Mr. Cooper said, and is now working the Cambridge Institute of International Education, based in Boston. "We're looking in the next year or so to having 20 students from the Cambridge Institute," he said.

Cambridge, which has an affiliate office in China, recruits  
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**A KNIGHT'S TALE**



**JPPII ALUMNI PAGE**



**ATHLETICS**



**SCHOOL**



**@JPIIKNIGHTS**

Admissions Office  
615-822-2375  
info@jp2hs.org



## Admissions Events

The Admissions Office at JP II will host several upcoming events for prospective students and their parents.

They include:

### Taste & See Events

11:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 29

Monday, Dec. 1

### Open House

5 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 23

### Placement Exams

7:30 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18

Saturday, Nov. 8

### Make-up Exam

7:30 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6

For more information, call the school at (615) 822-2375 or email info@jp2hs.org.

## JP II, BRITISH SCHOOL RENEW TIES

Once again, Pope John Paul II High School welcomed a British invasion when 10 students from St. Edmund's College, the oldest Catholic school in England, spent two weeks touring Middle Tennessee and spending time in JP II classes.

While they were here, the British students were staying with the families of JP II students they had hosted in England earlier in the summer.

The Loughlin Scholars is the oldest exchange program at JP II, and is open to rising sophomores each year. For two weeks at the start of the summer, the JP II students spent time with their English host families, shadowing students in classes at St. Edmund's, and visiting historical and cultural landmarks.

Among the sites the JP II delegation visited were the site of the recent London Summer Olympics, Cambridge University, High Tea at the Chard, the Tower of London, and Harry Potter World, said Mike Brown, the faculty advisor for the Loughlin Scholars program. The JP II students also received a tour of St. Edmund's, which is a day and boarding school about an hour's drive north of London. The school was founded in 1568 and is credited with saving the Catholic faith in England, Mr. Brown said. The hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" was

written at the school, he said.

When the St. Edmund's students came to the U.S., they were treated to the same kind of experience. In the week before JP II started classes, host families took their English student on trips to a variety of places, Mr. Brown, said, including to Chattanooga, Chicago, the beach and a host of sites in Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

"When school started I took them on group activities," Mr. Brown said, including trips to the Parthenon, Frist Center for Visual Arts, a tour of State capitol, lunch at Nashville's Farmer's Market, a historical tour of downtown Nashville and Mammoth Cave.

The St. Edmund's students participating in the Loughlin Scholars program this year were: Katie Collins, Francesca Larkin-Collins, Megan Schoeman, Katie Martin, Katie Williams, Louie Seers, Maria Ilett, Lucy Loughrey, PaReis McCalistair and Augusta Thorneycraft. The JP II students were: Naylss Alexander, McCain Brown, Julia Colello, Grace Eatman, Allison Hager, Daniel McRen, Abby Mysinger, Elizabeth Perrone, Katie Ray and Kathleen White. Information about applying for the program next year will be available later this fall, Mr. Brown said.

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS GROWING

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students interested in studying in the United States and then tries to place them at a U.S. school like JP II, Mr. Cooper said. JP II officials interview the students via Skype before accepting them, Mr. Cooper added.

Cambridge uses Global Placement Systems to help the students find host families to live with while studying in the U.S. Global Placement Systems requires that host families be able to provide the international student with their own bedroom, access to a bathroom, and three meals a day, Mr. Cooper said. But JP II is looking for more of an emotional investment in the school community from the host families, said Mr. Cooper, who also has been working on finding more host families at JP II. He is looking for families that already have, or will have, a student at JP II, Mr. Cooper said. "We want them to be involved in the community" at JP II, he said.

"They want the experience of the United States," Mr. Cooper said of the International Scholars. "Most have never been in the U.S. before. It's a crazy experience. It's eye-opening."

To help with the transition, the Cambridge Institute provides an English as a Second Language instructor who meets with the students three times a week. The students take a full academic load, Mr. Cooper said. "Several of them are excited about participating in extra-curriculars and electives."



The new International Scholars from China at JP II this year are, from left, David Qiu, Kira Niu, Alex He and Haoming Ning.

The International Scholars arrived in Hendersonville in August. They will return to their home country over JP II's Christmas break. When they come back to school in January, they'll be here until the summer, Mr. Cooper said.

"The International Scholars bring a new element to the student body" by exposing the other JP II students to their culture while they are learning about American culture, said Michelle Barber, Dean of Admissions and Advancement.

"It's a great program," Mr. Cooper said. Anyone interested in being a host family can call Mr. Cooper at (615) 590-6006 or e-mail him at john.cooper@jp2hs.org.

## JPII STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL A.P. SCHOLAR HONORS

Ninety-seven students at Pope John Paul II High School earned Advanced Placement Scholar honors, the most in school history, including 10 graduating seniors who achieved the highest ranking of National A.P. Scholar.

To be named a National A.P. Scholar, students must receive a grade of four or five on a five-point scale for eight or more Advanced Placement exams during their high school career, with an average score of four or better on all exams taken.

“We’re proud of these kids,” said JPII Headmaster Faustin Weber. “We believe the National A.P. Scholar designation is the highest academic honor a high school student can achieve in his or her career. All of these students are blessed with innate ability, but this honor indicates they’ve achieved an extraordinary level of mastery, which only comes through hard work and good teaching. We’ll miss them.”

The school’s 10 National A.P. Scholars, which represents the highest number for one year in the school’s history, all are members of the 2014 graduating class at JPII. They are: Chris Baker, Collin Bryant, Susanna Edwards, Robert Faust, Megan Gerstner, Tristan Greeno, Josh McConnell, Emily McRen, Caleb Pracht and Luke Price.

Thirty-one students were named A.P. Scholars with Distinction, given to students with scores of three or higher on five or more exams, with a minimum average of 3.5 on all exams taken. Those students are Chris Baker, Nicholas Baker, Gina Botsko, Collin Bryant, Raina Devrai, Victoria Dolan, Daniel Edwards, Susanna Edwards, Robert Faust, Megan Gerstner, Teresa Gilstrap, Tristan Greeno, Victoria Hickam, Caleb Holton, Quincy Huff, Alex Koeberlein, Jordan Lee, Jingyi Lu, Josh McConnell, Emily McRen, Dylan Pederson, Caleb Pracht, Luke Price, Lucas Pulliza, James Puryear, Jacqueline Ramos, Stephanie

Simpson, Illinca Sipos, Katarina Swaringen, Taylor Wallace and Daniel Weber.

Seventeen students earned A.P. Scholar with Honor designations, given to students with scores of three or higher on four or more exams, with a minimum average of 3.25 on all exams taken. Those students are Bethany Erwin, Brian Griffin, Reuben Hoyos, Alex Reiland, Kira Romeo, Chu Chu, Tyler Dorr, Jacob Easter, Mia Herrington, Cathleen Humm, Maggie Mann, Jovani Martinez, Michelle Moore, Anna Reding, Alexander Roy, Greg Silverman and Catherine Wood.

Thirty-nine students earned A.P. Scholar status, given to those with three or higher scores on three A.P. exams. Those students are Courtney Baldrige, Joseph Bender, Natalie Cannella, Kristen Carter, John Earl, Emily Ernst, Josh Gutierrez, Chloe Kilpatrick, Marlowe LeBlanc, Jeffrey LeCave, Madison Leonard, Bethany Loven, Julia Myer, Mary Parrish, Ford Sanger, Helen Shaw, Benjamin Stringer, Joseph Tan, Calvron Wachter, Austin Whitmer, Zach Abdo, Tally Bevis, Briah Boyce, Sydney Dawson, Abigail Fox, Lauren Gierla, Sarah Link, Thomas O’Berry, Christian Roberts, Jaime Rochester, Michael Simpson, Olivia Snell, Jacob Telli, Casey Thompson, Luke Whittington, Katherine Williston, Abigail Wood, Annabel Yates and Christina Yi.

Many of the students honored returned to JPII this fall for their senior year, said Weber, “so they’ll have a chance to add to these awards next year. Their performance is a credit to how hard they’ve worked and how well they’ve been taught, not just in their A.P. classes, but in all the freshman and sophomore courses leading up to the A.P.’s.

“Students are taking A.P. classes at a greater rate at JPII than any other time in our school’s history, and even so, our results are the best they’ve ever been,” he added. “My congratulations to our students and teachers.”



## TAKING CLASS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The Pope John Paul II High School AP Biology and AP Environmental Science classes recently took the classroom to the Smoky Mountains.

The students spent three days studying and working on issues related to biodiversity at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. They studied indicator species and searched for mayflies and salamanders. The students also spent a lot of time hiking and exploring the Smoky Mountains.

Pictured are the students from the AP Biology class.

## JPPII ANSWERS ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

Students, faculty and staff at Pope John Paul II High School recently participated in the viral sensation of the ice bucket challenge to aid those suffering from ALS – also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease – all while remaining consistent with Catholic teaching.

In the challenge, people are asked to share videos through social media that show them dumping a bucket of ice water on their heads – or having someone else do the dumping. They also have to name others to do the same in the next 24 hours or donate \$100 to organizations battling ALS. JPPII made a donation to the John Paul II Medical Research Institute in Iowa City, Iowa, which conducts research using adult stem cells in compliance with Catholic teaching.

The student leaders from the House of Gregory challenged Headmaster Faustin Weber and nine other faculty members, who accepted the challenge and were doused with ice water at halftime of the opening football game of the season, which the Knights won over Stratford High School 59-34.



Photo courtesy of Rick Musacchio/Tennessee Register  
Headmaster Faustin Weber, left, and Campus Minister Deacon Brian Edwards get doused as part of the Ice Bucket Challenge.

## COLLEGE APPLICATION SATURDAYS HELP SENIORS START COLLEGE SEARCH

The College Counseling Office at Pope John Paul II High School gave the members of this year’s senior class a boost in their search for a college by hosting two College Application Saturdays on Aug. 16 and Sept. 6. During the sessions, the school’s college counseling staff is on hand to help students as they complete the Common Application, a single college application accepted by more than 500 colleges and universities across the country, including the University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University, the University of the South in Sewanee, Rhodes College and Christian Brothers College in Tennessee, said Mike Brown, director of college counseling at JPPII.

“We really promote students applying as early in the application season as they can,” Mr. Brown said. That gives them the maximum

opportunity for admissions and scholarships, he explained. If a student wants to apply to an additional school later, they have everything ready to go, Mr. Brown said.

By hosting the College Application Saturdays, the school provides students “a focused time where they can plan to do this,” he said. Meeting in a group allows the students to hear the answers to questions from the classmates that they might have been pondering also, Mr. Brown said. He and the other college counselors also use the gatherings to make sure the seniors know how to request transcripts and letters of recommendation, Mr. Brown said.

The College Application Saturdays, now in their sixth year at JPPII, Mr. Brown said, “really kick start the process.”

## ROBERTSON SIGNS TO PLAY BASEBALL AT BETHEL

Ryan Robertson, a 2014 graduate of Pope John Paul II High School, will be continuing his baseball career at Bethel College in McKenzie, Tenn., this fall. Robertson, the son of John and Jenny Robertson, started for the varsity all four years of his high school career. As a starting pitcher for the Knights, he was the part of teams that made three final eight appearances and one final four appearance in his four year career. Robertson was also a leading hitter for the Knights the last two seasons and led the team in runs batted in last season.



Ryan Robertson

Robertson, who graduated from St. Joseph School in Madison and was named to the All-Sumner County First Team this year as a pitcher, turned in a courageous performance in the playoffs

last spring pitching the Knights to a win over the Baylor School of Chattanooga with a broken thumb on his throwing hand.

“Ryan deserves to play college baseball,” said JPPII Head Coach Michael Brown. “Ryan is a pure pitcher. He knows how to pitch in every situation. ... Bethel is getting a steal.”

## TAN RECEIVES SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Joe Tan, a 2014 graduate of JPPII, the 2014 Sportsmanship Award from the Tennessee Scholastic Lacrosse Association (TSLA), which presents the award annually to one player who exemplifies sportsmanship both on and off the field. After suffering a career ending injury in his sophomore season, Joe assisted the Knights’ coaching staff during his junior and senior seasons and made significant contributions helping the players improve their conditioning levels, stick skills and goalie play. Joe is attending the University of South Carolina.

## JPII WELCOMES NEW FACULTY, STAFF MEMBERS

Pope John Paul II High School has added 10 new members of the faculty and staff this year. Among them are:

**Michelle Barber** joins JPII as the new Dean of Admissions and Advancement. She taught for several years in Plano, Texas, before moving to Nashville. Her most recent experience includes being the Director of the Sesquicentennial Celebration for St. Cecilia Academy in 2011 and the Director of Development at Christ the King School in 2012.



Michelle Barber

**John Baunach** joins the Science Department as the new physics teacher. He is teaching four classes of Advanced Conceptual Physics for freshmen and one class of AP Physics C for juniors and seniors. He graduated from Vanderbilt University with an undergraduate degree in physics and a minor in astronomy. He taught for a year in Williamson County, and then went back to Vanderbilt for a master's degree in physics. For his thesis, he worked with NASA on space radiation shielding design for long-duration manned missions.

**Pam Eatman** is the Coordinator for the Hand In Hand Program and for Classroom Accommodations. She also teaches Exceptional Learners, an elective for juniors and seniors. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo., and a master's degree in special education from Vanderbilt University.

**Natalie Lodeon** joins the History department and will teach Modern European History and AP U.S. History. She will also lead music liturgy at Mass and serve as an assistant coach for the varsity girls basketball team. She has a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a bachelor's degree in history from Vanderbilt University.

**Mike O'Neill** is the new choral director at JPII. He has a bachelor of music degree in music education from the University of Florida, and a masters of music degree in choral conducting from the University of North Texas. He has more than 15 years teaching experience, in and out of the traditional classroom and is teaching five choirs: Beginning Men, Beginning Women, Advanced Men, Advanced Women and Chamber Choir.

**Kathy Payne** joins the Math Department, having moved from Fort Worth, Texas, this past year. She has a bachelor's degree in math education and 18 years teaching experience with lifetime certification in Texas and a professional Tennessee teaching license.

**Simon Pearson** joins the Foreign Language department this year. He teaches four sections of Spanish I and one section of Spanish II. He studied at a high school very similar to JPII in his hometown of Duluth, Minn., in which he attended The College of St. Scholastica. While there, he studied English and Secondary Education, minoring in



The new faculty and staff members at JPII this year are, from left, Jordan Tupper, Pamela Strobel, Mike O'Neill, Pam Eatman, Simon Pearson, Natalie Lodeon, John Baunach and Kathy Payne.

Spanish and leading an assortment of student leadership development groups.

**Pamela Strobel** is a new faculty member in the English Department. She has a bachelor's degree in English Literature and is currently pursuing a master's degree in teaching from Aquinas College. She served as a missionary, a resident assistant, and a nanny before joining the staff here. She is incredibly excited to begin her journey as a teacher and educate students on the power and influence of the spoken and written word.

**Jordan Tupper** is thrilled to be the new Director of Instrumental Music at Pope John Paul High School. His current course load includes teaching beginning instrumental music, beginning guitar, the Chamber Orchestra, percussion and the Jazz Ensemble. Mr. Tupper also directs the Pep Band during the football and basketball seasons. Mr. Tupper has a bachelor's degree in Music and Religious Studies from Elon University and a master's degree in music education from Austin Peay State University.

**Kelsey Wilson** joins the school counseling department and will provide college, personal/social and academic counseling. She has a bachelor's degree from Brown University and a master's degree in school counseling from Vanderbilt University.



Kelsey Wilson

# REVAMPED PEP BAND MAKES ITS DEBUT AT FOOTBALL OPENER

Jordan Tupper, the new Director of Instrumental Music at Pope John Paul II High School, wants his students to make more noise in the community and he's starting at the football and basketball games. Mr. Tupper unveiled a revamped Pep Band program at JP2II at the first home football game of the season on Friday, Aug. 22.

"I wanted to have a much more public face for the instrumental program," Mr. Tupper said. "I want the Pep Band to be more comparable to a collegiate program." That means being far more cheer oriented, said Mr. Tupper, who also works with the marching band at Austin Peay State University. "We're not there to entertain the crowd, we're there to engage the crowd. ... We're supposed to be part of the culture of the football program."

For the first game, the Pep Band, which is now set up in the stands right behind the student cheering section, featured 37 musicians, including members of the Drum Line, the Jazz Ensemble and the Beginning Instrumental students. It gave "the beginners a chance to play in an ensemble that they normally wouldn't be able to do," and for the more experienced players it was a chance to experience something similar to what they'll see in college, Mr. Tupper said.

The changes in the Pep Band are part of Mr. Tupper's efforts to increase the visibility of the program in the school and in the community. "I'm seeking out situations and venues for our students to succeed and shine," he said. "They work really hard and they deserve to be shown off."



The JP2II Pep Band performs at the first football game of the season against Stratford.

In the future, Mr. Tupper wants his instrumental music students to perform more often. "I want instrumental music at Mass and at other school functions," he said. "I'd love to be able to take the ensembles out on an academic tour, going to play at music festivals at colleges, performing at famous cathedrals."

He also would like JP2II's program to be more visible in the middle and elementary school programs in the area, with hopes that it might inspire "some kids at a younger level to start instrumental music or music in general," instilling in them a life-long love of music.

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