



## A NEW QUEEN IS CROWNED



Homecoming Queen Maggie Mann is crowned by this year's cheerleading captains Savannah Burns, behind Maggie, and Allison Fowler. For more about Homecoming, see page 3.

## STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

Four Pope John Paul II High School seniors have qualified as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. They are among approximately 16,000 semifinalists across the country. The four JP2 students to be named semifinalists are: Tyler E. Dorr, Daniel B. Edwards, Anna E. Reding and Jacob M. Telli.

Besides their many accomplishments in the classroom, these four students are active in a variety of organizations at JP2.

Daniel Edwards is a member of the wrestling team, the Quiz Bowl team, National Honor Society, National Art Honor

Society and President of Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society.

Anna Reding is on the varsity women's bowling team, a member of Societas, National Honor Society, Youth in Government and Conference on National Affairs, and has participated in theater productions.

Tyler Dorr is President of House Counsel this year and will also serve as Governor at this year's YMCA Youth in

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**A KNIGHT'S TALE**



**JP2 ALUMNI PAGE**



**ATHLETICS**



**SCHOOL**



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## STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

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Government conference. He is a member of the men's bowling team, JP II Film Association, Conference on National Affairs and the Mock Trial program.

Jacob Telli is a three-year captain of the wrestling team, a starter on the baseball team, a member of the National Honor Society, and a SEARCH group leader.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a scholarship, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

To become a finalist, the semifinalist and his or her 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.

From the approximately 16,000 semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level, and will be eligible for three types of National Merit Scholarships. Every finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2,500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 240 corporations and business organizations for finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees

## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER HELPS STUDENTS

This school year, Pope John Paul II High School has launched the Learning Resource Center, an after-school academic support program. "It's open to all students," said School Counselor Kelsey Wilson, but particularly students who are struggling academically.

Freshmen who are on academic probation and any students trying to maintain their eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities are required to attend the after-school sessions, Ms. Wilson said.

The sessions are held 3:15-4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Students check in and they have three choices: use the time for a study hall, go to a tutorial with their teacher, or be tutored by a member of the National Honor Society at JP II, Ms. Wilson said.

"Having those three options is nice because students are struggling for different reasons," Ms. Wilson said.



Seniors Jacob Telli, from left, Daniel Edwards, Tyler Dorr and Anna Reding have been named National Merit Semifinalists.

or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 200 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

The selection process began in 2013 when the students joined about 1.4 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

The program is designed to help students meet the increased academic demands of high school, Ms. Wilson said. "For freshman especially it's a big transition" and requires developing the organizational skills needed to handle the increased classroom workload in high school, she said. "Time management is a big issue for all high school students," she said.

Members of the school's counseling staff met with all the freshmen to explain the Learning Resource Program to them, and it was launched on Sept. 10, after the mid-quarter reports were issued, Ms. Wilson said.

Currently, about 40 students take advantage of the program every day, Ms. Wilson said. "I think students are improving," she said. "I'm hearing good things."

The program is a work in progress, Ms. Wilson said, and the staff will make adjustments as they are needed.



## Open House planned for Oct. 23

JP II will host its annual Fall Open House 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23. Join Headmaster Faustin Weber in the Ann and Monroe Carell Auditorium for an overview of all that JP II can offer your student.

Meet our faculty and engage in conversations about our College Preparatory, Advanced and AP offerings.

Learn about our athletic program, featuring 38 athletic teams that play at the highest level of competition in Tennessee, Division II.

Experience facets of our comprehensive fine arts programs which includes Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, Chamber Choir, Choral Ensemble, the Knight'ngales acapella performance group, Pep Band, Chamber Orchestra, Private Voice and Piano, Forensics, Theatre, 2D (painting, drawing, photography) and 3D (sculpture) art.

Discover a plethora of clubs and extracurricular activities.

Please RSVP to sherree.dimenno@jp2hs.org

## JP11 CELEBRATES HOMECOMING



Senior Maggie Mann, seated center, was crowned the 2014 Homecoming Queen during halftime of the JP11-Baylor football game on Friday, Sept. 19. Maggie, the daughter of Doug and Kelly Mann, was escorted by senior Jacob Catignani. The other members of the Homecoming Court, included: from left, freshman attendant Lindsey Fletcher, escorted by Chris Botsko; junior attendant Maddy Baechle, escorted by Wyatt Kaiser; senior attendants Sara Link, escorted by Michael Koen, and Alyssa Wyman, escorted by Cole Sanford; junior attendant Elise Hackett, escorted by Johnny Hackett; and sophomore attendant Mollie Schindler, escorted by Brady Slaughter. Maggie's escort, Jacob Catignani, is a member of the football team and was unavailable for the photo.

## FACULTY, STAFF JOIN FIGHT AGAINST COLON CANCER

A team of faculty and staff from Pope John Paul II High School won the top fund-raising award at the Colon Cancer Alliance's Undy 5K Run/Walk, held over the summer in Nashville. The team raised almost \$4,500 for colon cancer research, which was more than \$2,500 more than the second place team.

JP11's staff and faculty were shocked to learn this summer that one of their colleagues was diagnosed with colon cancer. While there was an outpouring of love and support, Mike Brown, director of counseling services at JP11, wanted to do more. Some research led him to the Colon Cancer Alliance 5K Run and he decided to put together a team.

"It worked out in so many ways," Mr. Brown said. "We had several faculty who donated and fundraised for the team, and nine faculty members, as well as family and friends came out and walked or ran to raise awareness for colon cancer research."

Team members included Mr. Brown, Andrew Griffith, Bob Page, Scott Shaver, Jordan MacConnell, Juliane Staley, Veronica Del Valle, Joan Lange, Rebecca Jansing-Kaestner and her husband Andrew Jansing-Kaestner.

The team got a fundraising boost from JP11's Penny Wars competition, held each year to raise money for cancer research. The chair of that project, Betty Mayberry, had not found a place to donate the money raised during



A team of JP11 faculty, staff and family participated in the Colon Cancer Alliance's Undy 5K Run/Walk to raise funds for cancer research. Team members included, from left, Andrew Griffith, Mike Brown, Bob Page, Scott Shaver, Jordan MacConnell, Julianne Staley, Veronica Del Valle, Rebecca Jansing-Kaestner, her husband Andrew Jansing-Kaestner and Joan Lange.

the competition at the end of last school year. When she heard about the team, she gave the check to the 5K team on behalf of the school. That check and the hard work of faculty, staff, family and friends helped JP11 contribute to the fight against cancer.

## DANIEL SCHELL COMPETES WITH US ARCHERY TEAM

JPII Sophomore Daniel Schell has a unique talent that has taken him across the world. Schell grew up hunting and shooting and found a true passion in the art of archery. This past May, he decided to put his skills to the test and traveled to Texas with his father, Krist Schell, to compete in the National Archery Field Championships. Schell placed third at Nationals in the barebow category. At only 15, his third place victory qualified him for the USA Junior Archery Team.

“I learned to shoot with a hunting bow, so that’s what I competed with at Nationals. After making the USA team, I bought a competition bow and learned to shoot it in the two months before Worlds,” said Schell. Barebow is one of the most difficult categories in archery. It is the only one where the shooter does not use any sights or stabilizers to help aim the bow.

In August, Schell and his mother, Dana Bradley, traveled to Zagreb, Croatia, for the World Archery Field Championships. Schell placed seventh overall in the barebow category, helping the USA Junior Men’s Team claim a bronze medal.

“Croatia is amazing! Meeting all the different people there was by far the best part,” Schell said of the experience. “Forty-three different countries



JPII sophomore Daniel Schell competes in the World Archery Field Championships in Croatia against a member of the Swedish team. The USA Junior Men’s Team defeated Sweden 54-45 in the competition on its way to earning a bronze medal.

were represented at Worlds and each was interesting in its own right.”

Daniel lives in Bowling Green, Ky., and came to JPII from St. Joseph School in Bowling Green.

## JPII HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL MODEL UN CONFERENCE

Pope John Paul II High School Model United Nations team recently hosted its third annual JPII Model UN Conference.

Since the first conference of 26 JPII students in 2012, JPIIMUN has grown to include 103 students from area high schools, including JPII, Ensworth, Harpeth Hall and Station Camp. This year’s conference also included students from as far away as Warren County High School and several eighth graders from St. Joseph School in Madison and Sumner Academy in Gallatin.

After a welcome address by JPII Headmaster Faustin Weber, the students role-played countries in two committee simulations. Led by JPII co-chairs Grant Gonzalez and Miranda MacNaughton and assisted by JPII Theatre Tech Jonathan Stringer, the 70 delegates in the Disarmament Committee (DISEC) addressed the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (or drones) in warfare. Led by JPII co-chairs Elise Hackett and Emily Shipley, the 30 delegates in the European Union (EU) addressed the discrimination against the Roma (or gypsies). JPIIMUN 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.

Throughout the morning and afternoon sessions, the delegates focused on two increasingly escalating “crises” with ISIS forces invading Turkey and the United States responding with drone strikes without permission in that country and with the Russian Federation using the “threat against the Roma” in the Ukraine as a pretext for full invasion. During the tension-filled deliberations, the delegates

even had the opportunity to question Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin and Turkish Ambassador to the U.S. Serdar Kilic, both role-played by JPII history teacher and Model UN Advisor Paul Saboe. The delegates came together and passed several resolutions to address both topics.

The conference finished with a Closing Ceremony with many of the students being recognized for their conference preparation and participation. A Best Position Paper Award was presented to JPII junior Zarina Tan. JPII students Grace Adcox, Elena Baker, Ethan Ingram, Sam Kniery and Clare Steiner received Best Position Paper Honorable Mention Awards.

Best Delegate Awards were selected by the Committee Chairs and presented to JPII Juniors Grace Adcox and Sam Kniery. JPII sophomores Abby Mysinger and Lauren Baugh and St. Joseph students English Chesser and Jake Shaver received Best Delegate Honorable Mention Awards. Finally, Delegate Choice Awards were voted on by the student participants. JPII juniors Grace Adcox and Sam Kniery, received Delegate Choice Honorable Mention Awards.

The JPII team hosted this event as a training conference, especially for the 38 JPII participants who had never participated in a Model UN simulation before. With this experience in hand, the JPII team, now 108 members strong (and still growing), is much better prepared to compete at the Vanderbilt Model UN Conference in October and at the University of Dayton Conference and at the Arkansas Model UN Conference in November and to reach for a third consecutive national ranking by BestDelegate.com.

## JP II COLLOQUIUM WILL DISCUSS ART'S IMPACT ON CHURCH

The arts were a central part of the life and faith of St. John Paul II, who was a poet, playwright and actor. His deep attachment to and appreciation of the arts has inspired the topic for this year's colloquium at Pope John Paul II High School: The Search for New "Epiphanies" of Beauty: Art in the Catholic Tradition.

This year's colloquium, which will feature two college professors who are experts in the field talking about the theme, will be held 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, in the Monroe and Ann Carell Auditorium at JP II High School. The event is free and open to the public.

"This year for our colloquium ... we will be focusing on art and Catholicism because this was a topic near and dear to St. John Paul II's heart," said Dr. Brad Peper, Theology Department Chair at JP II and director of the school's Center for Scholarly Engagement.

"Art was very much essential in his preaching and also, of course, embodied in his own life as an actor, a poet and a playwright," Dr. Peper said of the school's patron. "St. John Paul II echoed the Second Vatican Council by extolling the necessity of art in the participatory expression of beauty in the Catholic Church," according to Dr. Peper. "Inviting artists into a renewed dialogue, he sought to reestablish the historical affinity between art and faith in a post-modern world, a world too often characterized by a separation between the two."

St. John Paul II's interest in the arts is reflected in the school's curriculum and emphasis on the arts, Dr. Peper said. Since the school opened in 2002, students have been required to take three years of a fine art.

"We try to live up to that legacy of John Paul II with our fine arts program that we do so admirably here. And that's always going to be essential to this

school," Dr. Peper said. "We're not simply a school named after JP II. As our patron saint, we try to model the school and curriculum off the works of John Paul II."

The speakers at this year's colloquium will be Dr. Timothy O'Malley from the University of Notre Dame and Dr. Lee Jefferson of Centre College.

Dr. O'Malley is the director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy in the Institute for Church Life and an assistant professional specialist in Notre Dame's Theology Department. He has published and presented extensively on a variety of topics concerning liturgy and worship in the Catholic Church. His presentation at the colloquium will be "The Catholic Imagination and the Saving Power of Beauty," which will explore the saving power of beauty in the Catholic imagination.

Dr. Jefferson is an assistant professor of religion at Centre College in Danville, Ky., where he teaches a variety of courses on Christianity and art history. He has published and presented widely in the areas of early Christian and Byzantine art. His most recent book, "Christ the Miracle Worker in Early Christian Art," focuses on the scriptural and late-antique, image and literary traditions centered on healing.

Dr. Jefferson is also the director of Centre's Global Leadership Academy and the Shohet Scholar of the International Catacomb Society.

His presentation, entitled "The Bible in Christian Art," will focus on the development of Christian art, with particular emphasis on images from the scriptural tradition. He will briefly examine how these images were received in early Christianity, how art and imagery contributed to the shaping of the Christian Church, and how Christian art is interpreted today.

## COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES FLOCK TO JP II

Pope John Paul II High School hosted its annual college fair on Thursday, Sept. 25. More than 145 colleges and universities from around the country were represented at this year's fair, giving JP II students an opportunity to explore some of the many options available to them.

The annual college fair is part of the full college placement program offered at JP II, with a dedicated staff guiding students through the college admissions process.

The 2014 graduating class of 142 students collectively earned more than \$17.5 million in scholarship offerings to 120 different colleges and universities in the United States and attended 46 different schools in 17 states.

The academic performance by JP II students helped them earn all the scholarship offerings. The achievements of the Class of 2014 included: the top quartile of the class scored an average of 31.4 on the ACT, with the top decile at 32.6.

In 2014, JP II students took 527 AP exams in 21 different subjects areas and received 97 AP Scholar Awards, including 10 "National AP Scholar" awards. Over the last four years (2011-2014), JP II students have received 370 "AP



JP II students talk to representatives of one of the more than 145 colleges and universities from across the country represented at the school's annual College Fair.

Scholar" awards designated by the College Board for their test performances, including 27 "National AP Scholar" designations.

# MR. PEARSON IS DEDICATED TO SERVICE

Simon Pearson, a new Spanish teacher at Pope John Paul II High School this year, is always looking for ways to serve. "I'm always trying to preach service," he said. "There are lots of service opportunities" at JPPII.

He came to JPPII over the summer after serving the previous two years as a volunteer with the FrancisCorps program, serving the needy in Syracuse, N.Y., and Costa Rica. But his commitment to service also marked his time as a student at the College of St. Scholastica in his hometown of Duluth, Minn.

While in college, Mr. Pearson helped start a chapter of Students Today Leaders Forever. "That's all about leadership and service," he said. The volunteers would take spring break trips where they would drive across the country and do acts of service in every city where they stopped. "That was an awesome time," he said.

He and some of his friends took the core idea of Students Today Leaders Forever and started their own organization Spread Love Like Violence. The name was taken from a song by Angels and Airwaves, he explained. "In today's society there is so much violence and negative world images. We wanted to fight that with ideas like compassion, caring, hope and love."



Simon Pearson

After his involvement in those two groups, Mr. Pearson said, he was looking to broaden the impact of his efforts. He found FrancisCorps, a Catholic outreach program based on the ideals of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare, which provides service opportunities while living in community. After graduating from St. Scholastica in 2012 with majors in English and Secondary Education and a minor in Spanish, Mr. Pearson headed to Syracuse, N.Y., where he spent a year as the director of a food pantry. He then traveled to Costa Rica with FrancisCorps to work with men in an addiction treatment center and a home for the poor who would have died if left on the streets.

Last summer, as his year in Costa Rica was coming to a close, he decided to relocate to Nashville where he had friends. He found JPPII online while still in Costa Rica and sent in a resume. School officials interviewed him via Skype and hired him before he left Costa Rica.

"I just absolutely love it," Mr. Pearson said of teaching. "Helping people develop relationships and communicate better is part of my mission. Teaching is one of the best ways to help people develop their relationships."

At JPPII, Mr. Pearson is teaching four sections of Spanish I and one section of Spanish II. He also will be an assistant coach for the freshman basketball team and is the advisor to the Spanish Club, the National Spanish Honor Society and the school's new Ping Pong Club. "I can't say enough good things about this school," Mr. Pearson said. "We have a very great mission statement about serving the whole child ... we really do that."

## JPII OPEN HOUSE

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM IN THE ANN AND MONROE CARELL AUDITORIUM

