

## JPII HONORS CAROLYN BAKER AT GALA

Dr. Carolyn Baker, a member of the founding Board of Trustees for Pope John Paul II High School, was the honoree at the 2015 Gala and Auction for the school – Masquerade Knight – held Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Bluegrass Yacht and Country Club in Hendersonville.

Dr. Baker's career in education spans more than 30 years during which she has devoted much time, talent and treasure to the enhancement of Catholic education throughout the Diocese of Nashville. She founded the Nashville Catholic Middle School Forensic League, coached forensics at Overbrook School, and taught as an adjunct instructor at Aquinas College.

In early 1999, Dr. Baker was invited by Nashville Bishop Edward Kmiec to serve on the Program Committee of the New High School Task Force, which eventually became the inaugural Board of Trustees of JPII. Dr. Baker's leadership as chair of the Headmaster Search was instrumental in bringing to JPII Mr. Hans Broekman, the school's founding headmaster.

The Gala included a silent and live auction, dinner and dancing. Proceeds from the gala support the general operations of the school.



Dr. Carolyn Baker, center, was the honoree at Masquerade Knight, the 2015 Gala and Auction for Pope John Paul II High School. She was a member of the school's original Board of Trustees and chaired the search for the school's first headmaster, Hans Broekman. Dr. Baker is pictured with her husband, Clark, and her daughters Christin Baker, left, and Caroline Baker Tuss, right.

## FOUR JPII SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

Four seniors at Pope John Paul II High School have been named National Merit Scholarship finalists, making them eligible for college scholarships.

They were among about 15,000 high school seniors from across the country to be named finalists, which represents about 1 percent of the students who entered the scholarship competition in their junior year when they took the Preliminary SAT standardized test.

The four students are:

■ Tyler Dorr, who is president of JPII's House Council this year and will also serve as governor at this year's YMCA Youth in Government conference. He is a member of the men's bowling team, JPII Film Association, Conference on National Affairs and the Mock Trial program.

■ Daniel Edwards, a parishioner at St. Edward Church who 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, a parishioner at St. Stephen Church and a graduate of Holy Rosary Academy, who is on the varsity women's bowling team, a member of the school honor and leadership organization Societas, National Honor Society, Youth in Government and Conference on National Affairs, and has participated in theater productions.

■ Jacob Telli, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville, who is a three-year captain of

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**A KNIGHT'S TALE**



**JPII ALUMNI PAGE**



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## FOUR JPII SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

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the wrestling team, a starter on the baseball team, a member of the National Honor Society, and a SEARCH group leader and co-director.

As finalists, the four students will be eligible for college scholarships sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., colleges and universities, and businesses.

Four seniors at Pope John Paul II High School, from left, Jacob Telli, Daniel Edwards, Anna Reding and Tyler Dorr, have been named National Merit Scholarship Finalists.



### Camp JPII registration now open

Camp JPII will return to Pope John Paul II High School this summer with a choice of close to 40 camps, including favorites from past years and new options.

The camps will be held during the four weeks of June, Monday through Friday in two sessions: 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30-3:30 p.m. The cost of each camp is \$140. Those who sign up for four camps will be charged a discounted rate of \$515.

For an additional fee, early drop off and afternoon care, will be offered. "First Burst" allows parents to drop their camper off at 7:30 a.m., and "Last Blast" allows afternoon campers to stay until 5:30 p.m. Weekly lunch is also offered for a minimal fee.

Information about each of the camps and registration is available on the JPII website – [www.jp2hs.org](http://www.jp2hs.org) – under "Quicklinks."

## CHURCH ART EXPERT TO SPEAK AT JPII

Dr. Robin M. Jensen, a professor at Vanderbilt University who is one of the nation's leading experts on Christian liturgy and art, will be the Pope John Paul II Distinguished Lecturer this year.

Dr. Jensen will speak on "Sanctified Seeing: Visual Art as Praying and Praising," at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 9, in JPII's Monroe and Ann Carell Auditorium. Her talk will explore the various ways visual art supports and enriches worship and prayer life.



Dr. Robin Jensen

The Distinguished Lecturer Series in the spring each year follows the school's annual Colloquium each fall. This year, the theme for both events has been "Beauty and Art in the Catholic Church," said Dr. Brad Peper, JPII's theology department chair and director of its Center for Scholarly Engagement.

"The point of art in the Catholic Church is not just about pretty pictures," Dr. Peper said. "There's a purpose in the Church to art, a liturgical aspect to art," he said. "All the art embodies some aspect of theology."

Since 2003, Dr. Jensen has been the Luce Chancellor's Professor of the History of Christian Art and Worship at Vanderbilt University, a joint appointment in both the Department of the History of Art and the Divinity School.

She has published extensively on the interpretation of early Christian art and architecture. Her more recent works include "Living Water: Images, Symbols, and

Settings of Early Christian Baptism," and "Baptismal Imagery in Early Christianity."

Her latest book, "Christianity in Roman Africa: The Development of its Practices and Beliefs," (co-authored with her husband J. Patout Burns, who also is an early Church scholar, was published this spring and has received widespread scholarly praise.

Dr. Jensen is currently working on her next book entitled, "The Cross: History, Art, and Controversy," which is under contract with Harvard University Press. Dr. Jensen also has served as the president of the North American Patristics Society and has appeared on televised programs, such as "CBS Sunday Morning."

She holds multiple degrees specializing in the arts and Christian history. She earned her bachelor's degree from Concordia College, majoring in the Visual and Theatre Arts. She also attended the Parsons School of Design and received her master's and doctoral degrees from Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary in History of Christianity.

The Pope John Paul II Distinguished Lecturer Series, in honor of its namesake and in service to the Diocese of Nashville, offers the school and the broader community the opportunity to discuss various issues concerning religion and society with a nationally respected figure, Dr. Peper said.

"Our hope is to raise critical awareness and dialogue of these issues among our students and community," Dr. Peper said.

The Distinguished Lecturer series is open and free to the public. "This is an academic service to the community," Dr. Peper said.

## CLASS RETREATS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BONDING

During the school year, the four classes at Pope John Paul II High School take a day away from the pressures and busy schedules of being a student and gather for a class retreat, which gives them a chance to explore issues in their lives, pray and grow closer as classmates and friends.

The retreats are planned by the Leadership Class, which is taught by Kat Morris. The class is open to seniors. "They have to apply for it," and then undergo a short interview, she said. "We want a broad range of students. ... We want kids who will be good examples."

The students in the class learn different leadership styles and then use them in planning and running the class retreats, Ms. Morris said. Students and faculty members are recruited to give talks during the retreats, which each have a different theme and format determined by the Leadership Class.

This year, the senior class retreat was held in October and the theme focused on the seniors getting ready to move on to bigger things after they graduate in May. For the first time, the senior retreat involved an overnight stay, Ms. Morris said. It was held at the Boxwell Boy Scout Camp, the site of the Class of 2015's freshman orientation four years ago. "It was a nice bookend to the freshman orientation," Ms. Morris said. "They really enjoyed it."

The junior class retreat was held in November at St. Lawrence Church in Joelton, and the theme was about developing lasting friendships and unity. The sophomore class retreat was held in February at St. Stephen Church in Old Hickory, and the theme was about identity and "getting rid of their masks," Ms. Morris said.



Juniors (from left) Catherine Bagwell, Emily Robertson, Savannah Brown and Layne Myers enjoy an activity during their class retreat in November.

The freshman class retreat will be held March 11 and will be a service retreat with students assigned to work at various locations, Ms. Morris said. The goal is to incorporate the freshman class into the school's mission of service, Ms. Morris said. After their volunteer work, the class will end the day at the Church of the Assumption in Nashville.

## JP II THEATER TO PRESENT 'WIZARD OF OZ'

JP II's Theater Department will present a modern re-telling of the MGM classic movie "The Wizard of Oz" in performances March 6-8.

What if Oz existed today with all of our modern media? This production dares to ask and test this musical styling through the ages. Chronicling a troubled teen's journey from adolescence to adulthood. The path is wrought with personal challenges as Dorothy follows the yellow brick road. Role models manifest themselves in Dorothy's dream as a Scarecrow,

Tin Man, Lion and even some witches ... OH, MY! Can you spot the modern influences as they come to life in the magical land of OZ?

Performances will be at 7 p.m. Friday, March 6; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 8. Tickets are available online at <http://jp2hs.ticketleap.com/jp2-oz>. Reservations are strongly encouraged while remaining seats will be available at the door. Please visit us online for pricing and all other information.

## JP II CHOIRS AWARDED SUPERIOR RATINGS

JP II's Choral Department recently participated in the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association Choral Festival, held at the First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, and came away with straight Superior Ratings.

Two choirs participated, the Chamber Choir, a mixed choir of 26 singers, and the Women's Choir with 42 singers. According to the rules of MTVA, each choir is required to sing three prepared pieces for three judges, as well as go through a test of sight singing skills for one judge. Every judge, across the board, awarded the choirs with a Superior rating.

Mike O'Neill, the new Director of Choirs at JP II, is thrilled to be able to carry on the tradition of excellence established by his predecessor, Jj Ebelhar. "For these students to persevere through the adversity of missing an entire week of school, and by extension an entire week of fine tuning

and rehearsals, is truly a testament to their dedication and love for singing," Mr. O'Neill said. "We did some very difficult repertoire and I am so very proud of their efforts and accomplishments."

## LOCKE ACCEPTED TO GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

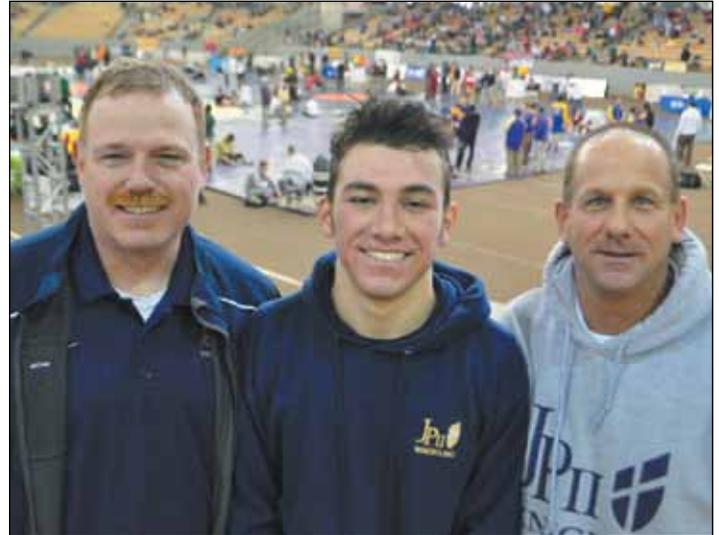
Junior Michael Locke has been accepted into the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts. This is a very prestigious honor in which he was required to fill out an application, receive letters of recommendation, and audition. In addition to being accepted, he was offered the highest scholarship they distribute. To learn more about Governor's School, visit <http://gsfta.com/>.

## TELLI PLACES AT STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Senior Jacob Telli ended his high school wrestling career by placing fifth in the 152-pound weight class at the Division II State Wrestling Championships held Feb. 13-14 at the Williamson County Ag Expo Center. Jacob went 2-2 at the state tournament and finished the season with a 16-6 record to improve his career record to 69-31.

He opened the tournament with a 5-4 loss to Nathan Martin of Briarcrest, but bounced back in his next match to earn a major decision over John Humphreys of Memphis University School 15-1 to guarantee his place in the medal round. In his third match he fell 12-2 to Caleb Canada of Baylor, who eventually took third place. In the last match of Jacob's high school wrestling career, he took a major decision, 9-1, over Will Tansil of Franklin Road Academy to earn fifth place. It was the first time Jacob, who missed his junior season due to an injury, medaled at the state tournament. "It was the extra work he put into it. Sacrifice and commitment, that's what got him to where he is," said JPII Coach Wes Smith. "This is what we're going to build at JPII. We're going to build JPII on achievements here in the state tournament."

JPII's returning wrestlers will begin offseason workouts in the coming weeks. Anyone interested in wrestling for JPII can contact Coach Smith at (615) 715-9170.



Jacob Telli, pictured with JPII assistant wrestling coach Bryan White, left, and Head Coach Wes Smith, finished his wrestling career by placing fifth in the 152-pound weight class at the Division II State Wrestling Tournament.

## JPII BOWLER FINISHES EIGHTH IN STATE TOURNAMENT

Sophomore Carlee Campbell finished in eighth place in the Division II Girls Bowling Individual State Championships. Carlee finished with a combined score of 588 in four games rolled in the semifinal round. The top six bowlers advanced to the final round and Carlee was 10 pins behind the sixth place finisher. Also competing in the individual tournament was senior Anna Reding, who finished in 15th place in the semifinal round with a four-game score of 537.

In the girls team state championship, JPII was knocked out in the first round by Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga, 15-12. In the team competition, six bowlers from each team are paired up. A team scores one point for each individual game won, two points for each team game won and three points for having the highest total pinfall for the match.

GPS swept the first game 6-0 and with the two points for the team win, took an early 8-0 lead. But the Lady Knights battled back winning the next two games 6-2, leaving the two teams tied at 12 points. The match was decided by the total pinfall, which GPS won 2,529 to 2,436.

JPII was led by Anna Reding, who rolled a 491 three-game series. Carlee Campbell had the high game score for JPII with a 199 and rolled a three-game series of 475. The other JPII bowlers were: Alyssa Wyman 253; Ally Johnson, 366; Olivia Zimmer, 344; Leah Mariscotes, 191 in two games, and Sarah Gould 110 in one game. JPII's girls team entered the state tournament with 15-1 record.

The men's bowling team's season came to an end in the finals of the

district tournament. JPII, the number four seed, lost a close match to University School of Nashville the number two seed, by a score of 14-13, losing by 15 pins. "We knew it was a toss-up going into the match based the results of our regular season matches," Coach John Reding said. "JPII's team competed to the end and came up a few pins short of moving on to the next round."

In the district tournament, the team was led by its seniors: Jarrett Books, Tyler Dorr, Jake Easter, Avery Glenn, Sean Reding and Hans Richter. Avery Glenn saved his best performance for the last match scoring his personal best of 198.

## FOUR NAMED HOCKEY ALL-STARS

Congratulations to JPII hockey players defensemen Chris Alfieri and Clay Nieman, goaltender Garrett Bennett and forward Mitchell Honious for being named to the GNASH All-Star team this season. They helped the Blue Squad come away with a 15-11 victory, which included goals from a shootout that featured every player, as a fun cap to the festivities.

## KNIGHT STARS PLACE AT JAMFEST

Congratulations to the JPII Dance Team, which placed second in their hip hop routine and third in their pom routine at the JamFest National Dance Competition in Cincinnati over Valentine's Day weekend. What a great way to end their season!

## LIBRARY HOSTS SEVENTH ANNUAL WRITERS CAFÉ

The library hosted its seventh annual Writers Café, featuring some of the best student writers at JPII. Students, parents and friends gathered in the candlelit atmosphere, enjoying good food and a great selection of poems, and suspense and humorous writing. Music highlighted this year's event. Senior Zach Janson delighted audiences with his country song, "I Believe in Tennessee"; Abby Fox sang of heartbreak in her song, "A Million Voices"; the Knightingales – the all-female student acapella group – fired up the audience with a version of Tom Petty's song, "Free Falling"; and Michael Locke closed the evening with a musical rendition of "Take Me to Church" by Hozier.

Poetry showed a range of life experiences, from tender feelings of friendship in Ally Johnson's "I'd Choose My Best Friend Over the Universe Any Day" to the intense attraction of opposites in Kiera Reeves' "Elemental Attraction" to Bob Shin's reflection on the sacrifices of parents in "The Gap," which described parents' lost dreams "that had yet not gotten silver."

Poetry contest winner Daniel Edwards warned of the "darkness coming closer/there's a silence near behind" in his suspenseful poem "The Shadow of Silence," which was read by fellow senior Tyler Dorr. Kala Wahl's satirized politicians in her The Herald on the Hill editorial. Students from Mr. Patrick Connolly's English classes shared "Beowulf Boasts": Whit Drennan boasted of his pitching prowess, "Do not doubt the dart that flies from my fingertips," while Alyssa Wyman challenged "to usurp the ratty Rachel from the county of the Son of David" and friend Rachel Richardson retorted that Alyssa could not match the "sharp sagacity stocked in (Rachel's) bountiful brain."

Artists from Advanced Drawing and Painting and 2D Intermediate displayed



Abby Fox, left, and Sarah Link perform during the seventh annual Writers Café.

poetry-themed artwork, and student photographers contributed images for the program and the school Literary Magazine. Jennifer Smith, English Department chair, shared copies of the Literary Magazine. Tech students from Stagecraft assembled the set, spotlight and sound system, junior Caelyn Armshaw acted as emcee, and students from the Teen Read Group decorated the candlelit tables. The Writers Café was sponsored by the student Teen Read group and librarians Joan Lange and Merri Gibbs. View a video photo slideshow on the Library News LibGuide website: <http://libguides.jp2hs.org/librarynews>.

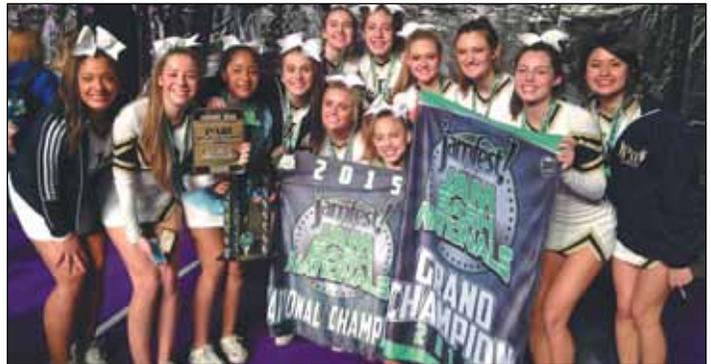
## STUDENT-ATHLETES SELECTED FOR ALL-COUNTY TEAMS

Congratulations to all of our fall student athletes selected for the all-county teams. They are:

- Cross Country: juniors Dylan Lanas and Jordan Wirth, first team.
- Football: senior Casey Thompson, juniors Quer'Derius Hunter and Matt Craven, and sophomore Ben Brooks, first team; senior Jacob Catignani, juniors Jackson Morris and Chris Byrne and sophomore Jermaine Mason, second team; juniors Creighton Couch and Nicholas Nixon, sophomores Jalon Cambridge, Nick Scott and Zack Scott, honorable mention. Senior Casey Thompson was also selected to the Tennessee Sports Writers Association (TSWA) All-State Football team as an offensive lineman in Division II-AA.
- Golf: senior Laura Knight, first team; senior Maddie Angell, second team.
- Soccer: seniors Catherine Meyer and Sydney Dawson, first team; seniors Hallie Lycans, Madison Taylor and freshman Anme Little, second team; senior Maddy Deffendall and junior Sophie Kolbe, honorable mention.
- Volleyball: senior Blythe Clausen and junior Savannah Brown, first team; junior Madison Farris, junior; senior Megan Reding and junior

Macy Hanson, honorable mention.

## CHEERLEADERS NAMED GRAND CHAMPIONS



The JPII competition cheerleaders competed at Jamfest Jam Bash Nationals at Nashville Municipal Auditorium. The team finished their season by taking home first place in the Intermediate Varsity division, as well as overall Grand Champion for all advanced school teams that competed. JPII was also awarded a paid bid to the U.S. Finals competition later this year. Pictured are: Caroline Alfieri, Sarah Klein, Nalys Alexander, Haley Cline, Carly Holton, Parker Moss, Suzanne Fowler, Heidi Uhl, Sydney Calvin, Savannah Burns, Allison Fowler and Taylor Williams.

# TEACHING BEST DESCRIBED AS VOCATION FOR MS. WALSH

Since she was in kindergarten, Ellie Walsh knew she wanted to be a teacher. "The term vocation is the best way to describe it," she said. Ms. Walsh, who graduated from St. Cecilia Academy, "as did my mother and grandmother," before earning degrees from William and Mary College in Virginia and Vanderbilt University, is in her second year as a history teacher at Pope John Paul II High School. "I have a real love of history as a discipline," Ms. Walsh said. "I like sharing the process of history."

History plays an important role in shaping citizens, Ms. Walsh said. "We need to know the past to understand the present," she said.

Last year, Ms. Walsh taught World History to freshmen. Now sophomores, her former students are eager to share what they learned in her class. "That's really cool."

"What's impressed me the most about my students is how individual they are,"



Ellie Walsh

Ms. Walsh said. JPPII students are involved in a lot of different areas, including academically, artistically, athletically. "It's that renaissance model that really carries through. They have a lot of opportunities and they're responding."

This year, Ms. Walsh is teaching U.S. History for juniors and World History for freshmen. She also teaches a forensics class and is the coach and advisor for a forensics team that is competing in a speech and debate league. "I'm looking forward to growth in that program," she said. Forensics and public speaking reinforce the skills students use in the classroom, particularly being able to organize their thoughts so they can deliver the content.

After earning her master's degree in secondary social studies education from Vanderbilt, Ms. Walsh met Julie Rollins, the former athletic director at JPPII. "She told me about JPPII and thought I would be a good fit."

"One of the things I looked for but I didn't prioritize as important as it's been is the quality of the department" and the other social studies teachers at JPPII, Ms. Walsh said. "The other teachers have a lot of styles, they're all good at their style" and all are willing to share advice with a young teacher like herself, she said. "That's invaluable.... I feel like I have quite a leg up on my peers at other schools."



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## PROJECT GRADUATION 2016 SPRING FERN & FLOWER SALE MARCH 3RD - APRIL 1ST 2015

Project Graduation is an all night, safe event held at JPPII the night of graduation filled with food, games & prizes! We need the support of the **entire JPPII community** to make the night a success. Please help us by purchasing your flowers or ferns today and spreading the word. A successful sale allows us to provide the Class of 2016 with a nice, safe party next year after graduation. The orders can be picked up **Friday, April 17th** at the JPPII tennis courts.

GREAT FOR MOTHER'S DAY!

Help us spread the word! Tell your neighbors, friends and coworkers. Let's make this the best sale yet!

Please email Kim Stinnett at [kimstin1@gmail.com](mailto:kimstin1@gmail.com) to place your order.