



New alumni of Pope John Paul II High School Maddy Deffendall, left, Lauren Gierla, center, and Blythe Clausen celebrate after graduation on Saturday, May 16. For more photos, see page 4.

## NEW GRADUATES LOOK TO THE FUTURE

With smiles, hugs, laughter and a tear or two, the Pope John Paul II High School Class of 2015 passed from being students to alumni at commencement exercises held on Saturday, May 16, at the Grand Ole Opry.

The 141 new graduates will be attending 60 colleges and universities in 21 states next year. They have been offered hundreds of scholarships totaling just more than \$20 million during their college careers. During their four years at JPPII, they have volunteered more than 20,000 hours of community service, both in their local communities and across the world.

This year's valedictorian, Daniel Edwards, continued a family tradition. He is the third member of the Edwards' family to be named JPPII's valedictorian in the last three years, following his brother Nathan and sister Susanna.

"It's amazing to think how much we have changed," Daniel, son of Cathye and Deacon Brian Edwards, campus minister at JPPII, said during his valedictory address. "We have faced that change and we used it to forge ourselves into better people more prepared for the world."

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**A KNIGHT'S TALE**



**JPPII ALUMNI PAGE**



**ATHLETICS**



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**@JPIIKNIGHTS**

**Admissions Office**  
615-822-2375  
[info@jp2hs.org](mailto:info@jp2hs.org)

## NEW GRADUATES LOOK TO THE FUTURE

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He and his classmates face more changes in the coming months and years, Daniel said. "JP II has taught us to use this change for the better." To view his speech, [click here](#).

The senior class chose Karen Phillips, the Assistant Head of School and Dean of Students, as the graduation speaker. She spoke of the lessons she learned from three heroes in her life – her father, her father-in-law and the school's namesake St. John Paul II – do your best, work harder and be not afraid. Mrs. Phillips spoke of how those lessons have shaped her own life and how the new graduates have embodied those lessons over the last four years. To view her speech, [click here](#).

At the baccalaureate Mass the night before at the Cathedral

of the Incarnation, the school honored this year's winners of the Kmiec Award, recognized as graduates who represent the ideals of JP II in an exemplary way: Tyler Dorr, who also was class salutatorian, and Anna Reding.

Graduation was not only an ending for the Class of 2015, but also for Headmaster Faustin Weber, who is leaving JP II to become the founding principal of a new Catholic high school– St. Michael's – near his hometown of Mobile, Ala. At the end of the graduation ceremonies, Mr. Weber stepped off the stage and joined the Class of 2015 in singing the school's alma mater.

Congratulations, graduates! We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Remember, once a Knight, always a Knight!

## GRADUATING SENIORS SCOOP UP AWARDS

Members of the Class of 2015 were recognized for their accomplishments during the last four years at the annual Senior Honors Night.

Daniel Edwards was named as the class valedictorian and Tyler Dorr was named salutatorian. The other honor graduates included: Alyssa Fogolin, Avery Glenn, Mia Herrington, Cathleen Humm, Margaret Mann, Anna Reding, Greg Silverman, Jacob Telli, Casey Thompson and Grace Wood.

Four students received ROTC scholarships: Christian Cook, Air Force; Sydney Dawson, Army; Creed Owens, Army, Luke Whittington, Air Force.

Madison Taylor and Casey Thompson received U.S. Army Reserve Scholar Athlete Awards.

Departmental awards included:

■ English: Lauren Gierla and Alyssa Wyman, Yearbook Award; Sarah Link and Jaime Rochester, Excellence in Journalism Award; Tyler Dorr, Excellence in Creative Writing Award; Mia Herrington and Anna Reding, English Award.

■ Visual Arts: Reygan Putman, the Brush Award (2-D art); Elise Ruttenbur, the Lens Award (photography), Libby Reese, the Chisel Award (3-D art).

■ Choral Music: Zach Janson and Abby Fox, Director's Award for Choir.

■ Instrumental Music: Chu Chu, John Philip Sousa Award; Avery Glenn, Louis Armstrong Award (jazz); Michael Simpson, National School Orchestra Award.

■ Theatre: Reygan Putnam, Outstanding Achievement in Make-up Design; Hailey Lavender, Outstanding

Achievement in Leadership; Sarah Link, Outstanding Achievement in Overall Contribution; Jaime Rochester, Outstanding Achievement in Performance.

■ Foreign Language: Mia Herrington, Spanish; Anna Reding, French; Daniel Edwards, Latin.

■ Mathematics: Chu Chu, Statistically Significant Award; Tyler Dorr, Alyssa Wyman and James Mainland, Mathematics Achievement Awards; Daniel Edwards, Department #1 Award.

■ Science: Michael Koen and Anna Reding.

■ Social Studies: Maggie Mann, Art Laffer Award for Excellence in Economics; Tyler Dorr, Social Studies Department Award, Youth in Government Award and Mock Trial Award.

■ Strength and Conditioning: Goretti Onaghinor, Female Lifter of the Year; Christian Cook, Male Lifter of the Year; Casey Thompson, Knight of Armor Recipient.

■ Theology: Greg Silverman, Theology Department Award; Sarah Link, winner of the Fireside Essay Scholarship.

Three students, Marta Gautsch, Grace Wood and Anna Veazey, received the Hans Broekman Christian Service Award. To see a video of the speech by Mrs. Melissa Vaughn presenting the awards, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tA0V3zkPdIc&feature>.

Dalton Smith and Alex Lanigan received the Athletic Director Award.

The Female and Male Scholar-Athlete winners were Taylor Williams and Jacob Telli. To see a video of their speeches,

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## Camp JP II begins summer fun

Camp JP II has returned to Pope John Paul II High School this summer with a wide choice 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 JP II website – [www.jp2hs.org](http://www.jp2hs.org) – under "Quicklinks."

## NEW GRADUATES SPREADING ACROSS THE NATION

The 141 students of the Class of 2015 have been accepted to more than 183 colleges and universities in the United States and will be attending 60 different schools (in bold) in 21 states. They have been offered hundreds of scholarships totaling just more than \$20 million during their college careers. In addition, the class has volunteered more than 20,000 hours of community service in the Nashville area.

The list of college accepting members of the Class of 2015 includes:

**University of Alabama**, Allegheny College, **Appalachian State University**, **Aquinas College**, Auburn University, **Austin Peay State University**, Ave Maria University, Bard College, **Baylor University**, **Bellarmino University**, **Belmont University**, Benedictine College, **Berry College**, **Birmingham-Southern College**, Boston University, Brescia University, **Butler University**, **University of California-Davis**, University of California-Irvine, University of California-San Diego, Carson-Newman College, Case Western Reserve University, **Centre College**, College of Charleston, **Christian Brothers University**, **Christopher Newport University**, **University of Cincinnati**, Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, University of Colorado at Boulder, **Columbia College Chicago**, **Columbia State Community College**, **Converse College**, University of Dallas, **University of Dayton**, Denison University, DePaul University, Duquesne University.

Earlham College, **East Tennessee State University**, Elon University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Emerson College, Emory University, University of Evansville, Fairfield University, University of Findlay, Florida State University, Fontbonne University, Fordham University, Franklin College of Indiana, Furman University, George Washington University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Goucher College, Grinnell College, Hanover College, **Harding University**, Hendrix College, High Point University, Hofstra University, Hope College, Howard University, **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Kennesaw State University, University of Kentucky, **LaGrange College**, Lee University, Lipscomb University, University of Louisville, Loyola Marymount University, Loyola University Chicago, Loyola University Maryland, **Loyola University New Orleans**.

Macalester College, **Manhattan College**, Marquette University, Maryland Institute College of Art, Marymount Manhattan College, **Maryville College**, Maryville University, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst, **University of**

**Massachusetts Lowell**, **University of Memphis**, Miami University Oxford, **Middle Tennessee State University**, **Milligan College**, **Mississippi State University**, **University of Mississippi**, **Murray State University**, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, **University of Nebraska at Omaha**, University of New Hampshire, New Jersey Institute of Technology, New Mexico Military Institute, New York University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, **University of North Carolina Greensboro**, Northeastern University, Northern Kentucky University, Northwestern University, University of Notre Dame, Oberlin College, **Oglethorpe University**, Ohio Dominican University, Ohio Northern University, **Ohio Wesleyan University**, Oklahoma City University, Pace University New York City, Palm Beach Atlantic University, **Pennsylvania State University**, **Pepperdine University**, Pont Park University, Pratt Institute, Purdue University, Queens University of Charlotte, Radford University, Rhode Island School of Design, **Rhodes College**, University of Richmond, Roanoke College, **Rollins College**, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Rutgers University New Brunswick.

Saint Louis University, **Saint Mary's College**, **Samford University**, University of San Diego, Savannah College of Art and Design, **School of the Art Institute of Chicago**, Seton Hall University, Sewanee: The University of the South, University of South Carolina, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Southern Methodist University, **Spring Hill College**, Stanford University, Stonehill College, Syracuse University, **Tennessee State University**, **Tennessee Technological University**, Tennessee Temple University, **University of Tennessee Chattanooga**, **University of Tennessee Knoxville**, University of Tennessee Martin, Texas A&M University, **Texas Christian University**, The University of Texas Austin, The University of Texas San Antonio, **The Ohio State University**, Thomas More College, **Transylvania University**, Trevecca Nazarene University, Trinity University, Tulane University, Union University, **United States Merchant Marine Academy Preparatory School New Mexico**, University of Mount Union, **Vanderbilt University**, University of Vermont, Villanova University, **Virginia Tech**, **University of Virginia**, **Volunteer State Community College**, Wake Forest University, Walters State Community College, **Warren Wilson College**, Washington and Lee University, **Western Kentucky University**, Westmont College, College of William and Mary, William Jewell College, Williams College, Winthrop College, The College of Wooster, Wright State University, **Xavier University**.

Congratulations Class of 2015!

## GRADUATING SENIORS SCOOP UP AWARDS

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visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tjsv-zc29os>.

Among the highest honors a graduating senior can receive at JP II is the Bishop Kmiec Award given annually to an outstanding female and male student. The award recognizes a male and female graduate of the school who represent the ideals of JP II in an exemplary way, including a commitment to their faith and desire to serve others, a willingness to extend themselves

academically, a constructive force for good in the daily life of the school, someone who immerses themselves fully in the life of the school, and someone who reflects these qualities in a natural way, consistent with their interests and personality.

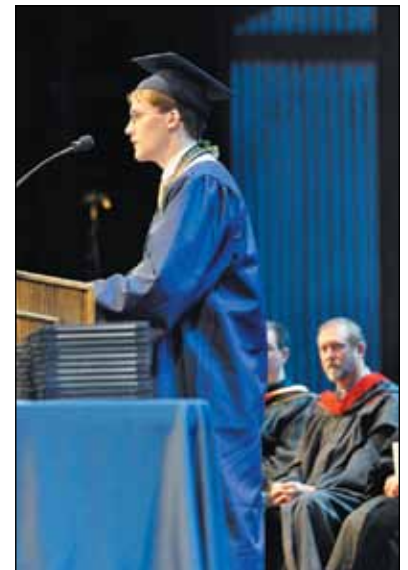
This year's winners, Anna Reding and Tyler Dorr, spoke at the Baccalaureate Mass, held the evening before graduation at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. To see a video of Anna's speech, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt1GmiB7XR8>. To see a video of Tyler's speech, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKLlweQ-Xr0>.



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2015

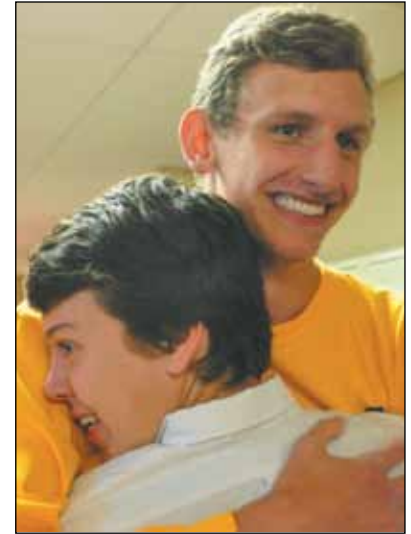


Headmaster Faustin Weber joins members of the Class of 2015 to sing the JPPII alma mater at the end of the graduation ceremonies. Like the students, Mr. Weber is leaving JPPII. He is the principal of a new Catholic high school near his hometown of Mobile, Ala.



New graduates, from left, Jacob Catignani, Chu Chu, Blythe Clausen and Marissa Edwards move their tassels, signifying they are officially alumni of Pope John Paul II High School. The Class of 2015 received their diplomas during commencement exercises on Saturday, May 16, at the Grand Ole Opry. Valedictorian Daniel Edwards, right photo, addresses his classmates, as his father Deacon Brian Edwards, JPPII's campus minister, listens in the background. Daniel is the third member of the Edwards family in three years to be class valedictorian, following his brother Nathan and sister Susanna.

## SENIORS TAKE FINAL WALK THROUGH JPII



Senior Whit Drennan, above, gives freshman Chris Botsko a hug during the annual Senior Walk. Seniors Ricky Lang, Jacob Telli and Madison Taylor, photo at left, take one last stroll through the halls of JPII at the end of the annual Senior Walk, when the graduating class says good-bye to fellow students and teachers.



Senior Tyler Dorr, above, the class salutatorian, hugs Philip Baker during the annual Senior Walk. At right, senior Lauren Ransom gets a hug from theology teacher Julianne Staley, herself an alumna of JPII who took her own Senior Walk before graduating.





# NATALIE LODOEN CHERISHES STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP

For Natalie Lodoen, the best part of teaching is the relationships she's formed with students. "The student-teacher relationship, that's something that is unique here," said Miss Lodoen, who just completed her first year teaching at Pope John Paul II High School.

JPII students "really like to talk to teachers and hang out with teachers," said Miss Lodoen, a history teacher. "That's unique here. ... They're always asking teachers to come and support them in their activities. They recognize teachers care."

Teaching has been a life-long interest for Miss Lodoen. "Since I was 5 I've always wanted to teach," she said. "I had a white board in my room."

"Teaching is the ideal job," where she can combine her love of history and her Catholic faith, Miss Lodoen said. "The workplace should feed all the components of a person."

Miss Lodoen grew up in Minneapolis, Minn., where she attended a small Christian school. For college, she attended Vanderbilt University, majoring in secondary education and history. She was attracted to the university and the town by the strength of Vanderbilt's education program and the fact her brother was working on a master's degree at Belmont University.

"I never thought I'd come down and stay," Miss Lodoen said. But during her years at Vanderbilt, "my faith grew substantially" through her involvement with the University Catholic organization and FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

"I liked the challenge of being Catholic in Nashville," Miss Lodoen said. "It's a strong Catholic community in Nashville though it's not huge. I wanted to stay in a place where the Catholic community was growing."

She became familiar with the Catholic schools in the Nashville area, and specifically about JPII through her friendship with Hogan Bryant,



Natalie Lodoen

a 2012 graduate of JPII. Both were involved with University Catholic at Vanderbilt.

"JPII is really attractive to me," Lodoen said. "There's a lot of opportunity to grow in its Catholic identity and strengthen it. ... I knew it had an excellent academic reputation. I knew it was a young school."

"The energy and vibrancy of the school stood out to me. That's not at all other schools," Miss Lodoen said. "There's a drive to always get better and to improve and to change."

After graduating from Vanderbilt last spring, she was hired to teach AP U.S. History to juniors and Modern European History to sophomores. "The first year's been great," she said. "What stands out the most to me is the support of the faculty especially in the history department."

Her colleagues on the faculty, particularly Scott Shaver who co-teaches Modern European History with her, and Andrew Griffith, who also teaches AP U.S. History, have been supportive and helpful with advice, Miss Lodoen said.

"The intellectual level of the faculty stands out to me most," she added. The goal of the department is to get students to think like a historian. "What we do closely mimics a college course. It's about making an argument, taking that search for truth, and bringing that to all aspects of life."

Miss Lodoen also has been impressed by her students. "JPII students are extremely diverse. They want to do it all," she said. "For the most part, students see the value of being exposed to the renaissance ideal."

Miss Lodoen embraces the renaissance ideal herself. Besides academic interests in history, she leads the music ministry at school Masses and was an assistant coach for the girls basketball team. A basketball player in high school, this was her first experience as a coach and she learned a lot from fellow coaches Karen Serra and Jimmy Steen, Miss Lodoen said.

As a coach, she can get to know the students in another way outside the classroom, Miss Lodoen said.

"It's been a good year," she said. "I'm happy to be here."

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO HELP JPII

The Fund for Excellence, Pope John Paul II High School's annual giving campaign, touches every aspect of the school, including academics, performing and visual arts, athletics, community service, spiritual formation, financial aid, the library, technology, faculty salaries, professional growth and campus maintenance.

The Fund For Excellence plays a critical role in filling the gap between what is raised through tuition and the actual cost of educating each child at JPII. The school needs the support of its community to

help our children reach the high standards they aspire to when they come to JPII.

It's not too late to help with this year's FFE. The campaign will continue through the fiscal year, which concludes on June 30.

If you haven't made a donation yet and would like to, you can give online by clicking here. For more information, call the Advancement Office at (615) 822-2375.