



Senior Emily Galluzzi was crowned JP II's 2015 Homecoming Queen at halftime of the Sept. 25 football game against Nashville Christian School. Her escort was Blake Norman.

EMILY GALLUZZI CROWNED HOMECOMING QUEEN

Senior Emily Galluzzi was crowned Homecoming Queen at halftime of the football game between JP II and Nashville Christian School on Friday, Sept. 25.

Emily is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Galluzzi and is a member of the House of Gregory, the National Honor Society, a four-year member of the basketball team and a four-year member of the volleyball team. According to Coach Kim Shaver, Emily has helped lead our volleyball

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SEEING THE POPE AN 'AMAZING' EXPERIENCE

JP II students, faculty and staff were touched with "Francis Fever" like much of the country during Pope Francis' visit to Washington, D.C., New York and Philadelphia Sept. 22-27. Several students and teachers traveled to Washington with a group organized by the Diocese of Nashville's Catholic Youth Office to hear the pope's speech to a joint session of Congress. Dean of Advancement and Admissions Michelle Barber saw the pope at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where Pope Francis celebrated a Mass to canonize a new saint, St. Junipero Serra, the founder of several California

missions. And junior Abby Mysinger was in Philadelphia with a group from her parish, Holy Spirit Church in Bowling Green, Ky, which ended up with tickets in the VIP section for the outdoor Mass at the close of the World Meeting of Families that the pope celebrated for an estimated 860,000 people.

"It was amazing," said Abby. As soon as it was announced the pope would be visiting Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families, people from her parish started organizing a pilgrimage for the youth group and other parishioners, Abby explained.

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SOCIAL MEDIA:



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SEEING THE POPE AN 'AMAZING' EXPERIENCE

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"There's no way we were going to miss that."

While in Philadelphia, the group stayed at a synagogue and it was through their contacts there that they got tickets in the VIP area for the Mass. Originally, her group thought they would be packed in with the rest of the crowd, far from the altar. But when they showed up, they realized just how close they would be.

"We had a very clear view of the pope while he was giving his homily," Abby said. "We just kept getting blessed with happy surprises along the way."

One of those surprises, Abby said, "was the ability to have a spiritual experience while still being in a crowd of millions. ... Everyone came with a good aura of spirituality and being in touch with the Holy Family."

Michelle Barber was in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., when Pope Francis, on his way to celebrating the canonization Mass for St. Junipero Serra, stopped to greet someone behind her.

"When he came out of the hug, he looked right at me and smiled," said Barber, the Dean of Advancement and Admissions at Pope John Paul II High School. Before she could shake his hand, the pope was ushered to the next person waiting to greet him.

"It happened so quickly, I was standing there thinking to myself, did that really happen," Barber said of her encounter with the pope.

"It was an honor and a thrill of a lifetime to be close to His Holiness," Barber said. "That would be a remarkable experience for anyone."

Barber flew to Washington just to attend the canonization Mass on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

"Most remarkable for me was seeing so many people coming together and worshiping together," Barber said. "Everyone you met had a story about how they came upon their tickets, how they organized their trip. There were people from all over the country."

"It was so emotional to see everybody was so jubilant," Barber said. "There was such an excitement in the air."



Several students, faculty and staff were able to see Pope Francis during his recent visit to the United States. Pictured are: (front row, L-R) Abby Mysinger, Samantha Aldrich, Reilly Aldrich, Kiernan Altenbern, Catherine Vendetti, Dr. Brad Pepper; (back row) Michelle Barber, Julianne Staley, Matthew Staley, Skyler Cummings, Father Terry McGowan, Stratton Clausen.

Pope Francis once wrote that "you have to do everything with a big heart. Most importantly, the small, everyday tasks you have to do that with a big heart too," Barber said. "That was really his message" during his trip to the United States, she added.

"He really showed us that. ... Just his actions spoke louder than words throughout the entire trip," Barber said.

The CYO group watched the pope's historic address to Congress on large jumbotron television screens on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. After the speech, the pope stepped out on the balcony to bless the crowd.

Junior Matthew Staley told the *Tennessee Register*, the newspaper for the diocese, that witnessing the pope's address and receiving his blessing was "a once in a lifetime opportunity and it was the best thing to be there with so many teens from the diocese and the country."

"What an unbelievable experience to be in the presence of such a holy man," Kathleen Leonard, a JPII parent who helped chaperone the trip, told the *Register*. "Pope Francis' message reaches all people, all walks of life. Never have I felt the Catholic Church embracing humanity in all its entirety."

RECORD NUMBER ACCEPTED TO HONORS ORCHESTRA

All members of the JPII Chamber Orchestra were accepted to the Austin Peay State University Honor Orchestra Festival. Acceptance to the festival is a prestigious award.

The students will participate in a large symphony orchestra made up of students from three states. Students will

perform under the baton of elite and nationally recognized conductors.

Special congratulations to junior William Peter and sophomore John Paul Quiampang, who were accepted into the elite Philharmonia Orchestra.



Admission events for prospective students

Prospective Parent Lunch and Tour
Oct. 19

Entrance Exams
Oct. 17
Nov. 21

Open 8th Grade Visit Day
Nov. 3
(Election Day)
Register by calling
(615) 590-6014

Prospective Student Shadow Days
Any Day
Call
(615) 590-6014

Apply Online
www.jp2hs.org

JPII ESTABLISHES EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH ARGENTINE SCHOOL

Father Adolfo Granillo-Ocampo had been on the job as pastor of Our Lady of the Snows Church in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and rector of the school there, the largest school in the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, only a few weeks when he got a call from Rome. It was from the man who had ordained him as a priest, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, and who had just been introduced to the world as Pope Francis.

“It was incredible,” said Father Adolfo, who in September was visiting Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville to set up a student exchange program with his school in Buenos Aires. Father Adolfo had started in his new position just before Cardinal Bergoglio had left for Rome for the conclave that would elect him pope. After his election, he was unable to return to Argentina. The pope was calling to make sure everything was going well.

Pope Francis, with his humble lifestyle and emphasis on reaching out to those on the margins of society, is the same man the people of Buenos Aires had come to know over the years, Father Adolfo said. “He was very humble. He didn’t want to be a superstar,” Father Adolfo said. “He was so close to everyone and he was so close to people who suffer because of



Father Adolfo

their situation. He wants them to feel welcome inside the Church.”

Father Adolfo’s parish has the largest school in the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires with 3,000 students and 450 employees. The students range from two to 20 years old, he said, and the school offers a two-year program to train people as teachers after they graduate from high school, he explained.

Our Lady of the Snows School had a student exchange program with Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego when Michael Deely, JPII’s new headmaster, served as principal there. They are now arranging a similar exchange program between JPII and Our Lady of the Snows.

Twelve students from Argentina will arrive at JPII on Jan. 8, 2016, and live with host families for a month while they attend JPII and explore life in America. The JPII students will travel to Argentina for a two-week stay in June.

The JPII students will find Argentina is a nice place to visit and Buenos Aires is a big city with a lot to see and do, Father Adolfo said. “They will get a taste of Argentine culture. They’ll enjoy seeing how the youth live with their friends.”

“Our students and our families are so interested in coming to the United States,” Father Adolfo said. “It’s a great opportunity for their education and their future. The future will be with no frontiers. It’s a way to prepare for that ... to experience other cultures.”



The 2015 JPII Homecoming Court and their escorts were, from left, Owen McGrath, Saydi Arms, Riley Southard, Madeline Barber, Noah Reamy, Elise Hackett, Blake Norman, Emily Galluzzi, Andrew Gerhold, Miranda Smith, Austin Smith, Maggie Bolinger, Mitchell Sorenson and Malia Holman.

SENIOR EMILY GALLUZZI CROWNED HOMECOMING QUEEN

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team to their most successful seasons (2013, 2014) since JPII’s opening in 2002. Coach Shaver describes Emily, as someone who leads by example every day, is extremely respectful, easy-going and kind.

She hopes to major in biology in college and pursue a graduate degree in physical therapy. Her escort was senior Blake Norman, the son of Ms. Heather Norman.

Other members of the Homecoming Court were: senior attendants Elise Hackett, escorted by senior Noah Reamy, and Miranda Smith, escorted by senior Andrew Gerhold; junior attendants Madeline Barber, escorted by senior Riley Southard, and Maggie Bolinger, escorted by senior Austin Smith; sophomore attendant Saydi Arms, escorted by sophomore Owen McGrath; and freshman attendant Malia Holman, escorted by sophomore Mitchell Sorenson.

JPII TO HOST SPEAKER ON BIOETHICS

Pope John Paul II High School's annual Speaker Series, held in honor of the school's namesake, this year will examine the relationship of science and the Catholic Church.

The first speaker in the series will be Dr. Jennifer Miller, president of Bioethics International and assistant professor of medical ethics at NYU Langone Medical School.

Dr. Miller will speak on Thursday, Oct. 22, the feast day of St. John Paul II, on the topic of "Bioethics and Biomedicine: The Ethics of How Medicines are Researched and Made Accessible." The talk will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Ann and Monroe Carell Auditorium at JPII High School.

Each year, the Speaker Series examines a topic that was prevalent in St. John Paul II's pontificate and his life, explained Dr. Brad Peper, director of the JPII Center for Scholarly Engagement and chair of the school's Theology Department.

"The JPII Speaker Series offers the school and its surrounding community the opportunity to discuss various issues of religion and society with nationally respected scholars," Dr. Peper said.

The relationship of science and the Catholic Church "was a topic that St. John Paul II discussed frequently during his pontificate," Dr.



Dr. Jennifer Miller

Peper said. "In his 'Message to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences: On Evolution' St. John Paul II encouraged fruitful dialogue to occur between the sciences and the Catholic Church in order to expand and enlighten each other's respective works. Following his predecessors, he continuously sought to tear down the false barrier placed between theology and science, which had become so prevalent in the modern era, in order to restore the notion that 'truth cannot contradict truth.' Ultimately, JPII emphasized the common end that both science and religion share: to 'be at the service of man.'"

Dr. Miller's presentation, "Bioethics and Biomedicine: The Ethics of How Medicines are Researched and Made Accessible," will explore how the Catholic concepts of human virtue, compassion and solidarity can be applied to biomedicines. She will also look at what responsibilities this might raise for pharmaceutical companies and scientists in the health care sector. Special attention will be paid as to how these issues play out on a global level.

Dr. Miller's current work explores the ethics, transparency and governance of health care innovation. In this area, she focuses on how medicines are researched, developed, marketed and made globally accessible.

She created an index that ranks pharmaceutical companies and new drugs on critical ethics and public health criteria to help recognize good practices in companies, improve trustworthiness, and incentivize reform where needed.

The talk is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Peper at brad.peper@jp2hs.org.

BISHOP'S CUP FESTIVITIES SALUTE HAND-IN-HAND



Will McMillan, left photo, and Jeanne Gavigan, two of the first graduates of the Hand-in-Hand Program at JPII, are saluted during halftime of the JPII-Father Ryan football game. The Hand-in-Hand Program, which serves students with intellectual disabilities, hosted a fundraiser before the annual clash of the two diocesan high schools for the Bishop's Cup. JPII students, photo at right, celebrate a JPII touchdown during the game. But it wasn't enough as Father Ryan held on to the Cup with a 30-22 win.

FUND FOR EXCELLENCE OFF TO STRONG START

Pope John Paul II High School's Fund for Excellence annual campaign is off to a strong start. "We've had phenomenal response from our parents, our faculty and staff and board," said Michelle Barber, Dean of Advancement and Admissions.

"We are tracking well toward our goal of \$450,000 and aiming for 100 percent participation overall," Mrs. Barber said.

"The Fund for Excellence is an organized fundraising effort made yearly to ensure that JPII has a balanced operating budget," Mrs. Barber said. "The Fund for Excellence is comprised of hundreds of tax deductible gifts received from parents, grandparents, alumni, corporations, foundations, matching gifts and friends of JPII. We rely heavily on the generosity of our friends through non-restricted gifts in an effort to reduce the rising costs affiliated with operating a school.

"Tuition alone does not cover the actual cost of receiving a quality JPII experience, therefore, we must rely on the generous tax deductible donations of our benefactors," she added.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT HOSTS BILINGUAL PANEL DISCUSSION

The JPII Foreign Language Department hosted its annual bilingual panel discussion, which was organized by the Foreign Language Club students and their teachers. Thirty students sat on the panel and answered questions from fellow students, shared the delights and challenges of being bilingual and what it is like being raised in a different culture. The following students participated in the panel: Nija Patel and Devpaul Chani, India; Waylon Jin, Mandy Hua, Tiger Su, Haoming Ning, Alex He and Remilia Li, China; Johanna Doleschal, Alexandra Galley and Max Stiegemann, Germany; Estefany Asencio, Guatemala; Brenda Hernandez and Sam Onate, Mexico; Maria Adeeb, Egypt; Kodong Ajak, Sudan; Kristy Ilia, Syria; David Thomas and Malachy O'Connell, Ireland.

Donations to the Fund for Excellence are used to:

- Attract and sustain quality faculty.
- Enhance the academic program.
- Provide students an environment in which they encounter Christ daily.
- Expand the technological footprint and provide an appropriate digital learning experience.
- Offer experiential extra- and co-curricular opportunities.
- Maintain our ongoing upkeep and facility enhancements to our physical plant.

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to participate in the Fund for Excellence, visit <http://www.jp2hs.org/giving/donate-now/>. "No gift is too big to be counted nor too small to be missed," Mrs. Barber said.



Sam Onate, center, makes a point during the bilingual panel discussion hosted by the JPII Foreign Language Department.

JPII SCIENCE CLASSES VISIT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

By Grace Adcox, Class of 2016

During a hot weekend in August, the JPII Science Department sent two of its classes, along with five teachers, to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in East Tennessee. Led by Mrs. Jennifer Dye and Mrs. Rachel Gordon, the AP Biology and AP Environmental Studies classes visited the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.

While on the trip, students spent most of their time engaging in learning exercises, including hikes, field tests and stream explorations. At Tremont, students encountered no shortage of wildlife, seeing and touching creatures varying from millipedes, which smell like cherries, to rattlesnakes laying on the trail, to vicious yellow jackets chasing students up a hiking trail.

As JPII teachers and students who went on the trip would point out, this expedition was not all fun and games. Though students enjoyed their forays

into the streams and woods, teachers gave them a goal of participating in a long-term Tremont study of local salamander populations. Students collected data about these 30 species of salamanders by examining salamander nets and recording their findings on Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to the salamander studies, Saturday night was a time for both reflection and bonding. After an all-day hike or stream study, students from both classes reconvened at the research center to celebrate Mass with a local priest, followed by a bonfire and s'mores in a pavilion outside. Students connected through their isolation from technology and the stress of school, something which made these seniors a closer knit group.

This experience certainly impacted the members of both classes, who noted they began to feel like a family of sorts, sharing the ties of this weekend spent together. Overall, through the stings and scrapes, this research trip was a successful journey and member of both classes enjoyed the benefits of going to Tremont.

GLOBE-TROTTER MS. RHOADS FINDS A HOME AT JP II

Penny Rhoads has traveled around the world teaching students in every grade from elementary school to university. But joining the faculty of Pope John Paul II High School has brought her back to her roots as a student at an all-girl Catholic high school in California.

"I've been trying to get hired at JP II for about eight years," Ms. Rhoads said. "I've been trying to get back home."

It was the mission of the school that attracted Ms. Rhoads to JP II. "There's a feeling of community and tranquility," she said. "I've observed the faculty members and how they work together" to help their students become strong and moral people.

Ms. Rhoads has had a life-long interest in education. "I have always wanted to be a teacher from the time I was a small child," she said.

She started teaching about 27 years ago and has spent most of her career teaching internationally. "I started out working for the Office of Overseas Schools for the U.S. Department of State, which serves the children of U.S. government employees overseas. Her first assignment was in Saudi Arabia, and over the years she has worked in Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Bahrain,

China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Denmark, Germany and Japan.

She has not only been a teacher, but a student, as well, earning degrees in mathematics, computer science, physics, psychology, special education, language arts, performing arts, literature, a reading specialty for English as a Second Language students, curriculum and instruction for literacy studies, adolescent psychology and a doctorate in education.

"I'm certified in every subject," Ms. Rhoads said. "I wanted to show my students if you're a mathematician you can still be a dancer. ... I want them to see ... I'm still learning. I'm still growing. The world doesn't stop and neither should our learning."

Ms. Rhoads also speaks several languages fluently – English, French, Arabic, American Sign Language, and the Blackfoot Native American tribal dialect – and has a comprehension in several more.

She fits well with JP II's culture of encouraging renaissance students. "I knew they're all about the whole child," she said of the school. "That's my philosophy."

This year she is teaching CP Geometry and CP Algebra II. Because she can speak Chinese, she's been a great help teaching English language study skills for the international students at JP II.

"JP II has always stood out as a special place," Ms. Rhoads said. "I feel very blessed."



Penny Rhoads



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015

2 PM TO 5 PM

