



Photo by Rick Musacchio/Tennessee Register

## TAKING OFF

The JP II Class of 2017 was launched into the future during Commencement Exercises held Saturday, May 20, at the Opry House in Nashville. Graduating seniors, from left, Chris Bell, Drew Bledsoe and Maggie Bolinger toss their hats into the air at the end of the ceremonies. For more about graduation, see page 2.



### SOCIAL MEDIA:



POPE JOHN PAUL II  
HIGH SCHOOL



JPII ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



@JPIIKNIGHTS

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



## JPII to host Titans Youth Football Camp

Pope John Paul II High School will host a Tennessee Titans Youth Football Camp to develop athletic skills, football skills and life skills within a safe and fun non-contact format Monday through Friday, July 10-14.

The camp, which is one of several Tennessee Titans Youth Football Camps held over the summer and is presented by Academy Sports, will be led by USA Football certified and Pro Sports Experience trained coaches. The Tennessee Titans camps also will feature supplemental instruction from former Titans like Blaine Bishop, Derrick Mason, Brad Hopkins, JPII head football coach Justin Geisinger, Gerald McRath and Neil O'Donnell.

The camp, which will be held 8:30-11:30 a.m. each day, is open to boys and girls ages 6-14. The cost is \$179 per camper. Additional purchase options include Extended Supervision, After-Camp Instruction and Cancellation Protection.

To register for the camp or to find more information, visit [www.prosportsexperience.com/tennessee-titans-youth-football-camps/](http://www.prosportsexperience.com/tennessee-titans-youth-football-camps/).

## SENIORS EARN DIPLOMAS, HONORS

On Saturday, May 20, the members of the Class of 2017 walked across the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, accepted their diploma, a handshake and congratulations from Headmaster Michael Deely, and stepped off the stage and into the next phase of their lives.

Leading the class were Valedictorian Carly Holton, who will be attending Wake Forest University in the fall, and Salutatorian Brennan Smith, who is off to West Virginia University. History teacher Ellie Walsh delivered the commencement address.

Besides Carly Holton and Brennan Smtih, this year's honor graduates included: Kieran Altenbern, Larabeth Case, Macey Crow, Grace Eatman, Thomas Janes, Hannah Jones, Jonathan Layne, Alayna Maslinski, Nisha Montiero, Abby Mysinger, Niya Patel and Skyler Voisin.

At the Baccalaureate Mass each year, the school recognizes one female and one male student who truly represent the mission of JPII with the Bishop Kmiec Award. This year's winners were Kieran Altenbern and Matthew Staley. The school also honors the top female and male scholar-athletes, and the winners this year were Alayna Maslinski and Jack Schumacher.

Other departmental awards included: Kirean Altenbern, Social Studies; Maggie Bollinger, Visual Arts Award for Photography; Michael Burkitt, Instrumental Catholic Band Director Award; Kaitlyn Burley, Yearbook; Jalon Cambridge, Athletic Director's Award; Claire Campbell, Broekman Service Award; Skyler Carson-Reynolds, Choral; Larabeth Case, Journalism; Stratton Clausen, Math Achievement; Julia Colello, Journalism; Molly Fowler, Yearbook; Karen Gao, Visual Art 2-D; Ashley Hayes, Women's Strength; Carly Holton, Statistics; Justin Humphries, Math-LoK, Social Studies Economics; Thomas



Photo by Rick Musacchio/Tennessee Register  
Madeline Barber, president of the House of Gregory, which won the school's coveted House Cup this year, led the Class of 2017 in the traditional tassel ceremony at JPII's commencement held at the Grand Ole Opry on May 20, 2017.

Janes, Youth In Government; Jack Merwin, Visual Arts 3D; Perry Minichan, Math-LoK; Nisha Montiero, Science; Abby Mysinger, Athletic Director's Award, French, English; Coby Neal, Physical Education; Haoming Ning, Math-LoK; Kria Niu, Visual Arts 2D; Cassidy Ohlwein, Theatre; Jack Palen, Social Studies and Math Achievement; Niya Patel, English Creative Writing, Latin, Model United Nations; William Peter, Instrumental Orchestra; Lexi Peto, Instrumental Music Louis Armstrong Award; Ashley Phillips, the CosDesign Award and Science Olympiad; Katie Ray, Theatre Make-up; Braden Sanford, Theatre Stage Management; Daniel Schell, Choral; Jack Schumacher, Physical Education and Math-LoK; Jack Shuttleworth, Men's Strength; Brennan Smith, Science; Matthew Staley, Theology; Pearce Sullivant, Instrumental Music Sousa Award; Kyler Voisin, Math.

## STUDENTS EARN SPOT ON SPRING HONOR ROLL

JPII has announced the names of students who qualified for the Spring Semester 2017 Honor Roll. They include:

### Headmaster's List – A's in All Classes

Seniors: Caroline Alfieri, Madeline Barber, LaraBeth Case, Stratton Clausen, Grace Eatman, Sarah Gould, Carly Holton, Thomas Janes, Hannah Jones, Jordan Kimmel, Jon Layne, Alayna Maslinski, Lizzy McAllister, Nisha Monteiro, Abby Mysinger, Victoria Grace Padilla, Niya Patel, Lexi Peto, James Peyton, Grace Singer, Brennan Smith, Skyler Voisin.

Juniors: Saydi Arms, Garrett Bennett, Jack Brau, Cainie Brown, Kendall Cline, Alexandria Ficarro, Luc Franklin, Many Hua,

Ethan Ingram, Jason Kerzel, AnMei Little, Megan McCormick, Owen McGrath, Caeley Murray, Andrew Snyder, Clare Steiner.

Sophomores: Reilly Aldrich, Emma Grace Baxter, English Chesser, Mickey Engel, Alison Gerstner, Chloe Harper, Julia Hutt, Jack Julow, Faraaz Kasmi, Mia Lane, Lexi Lannom, Canace Li, Mick Malmquist, Regan Orr.

Freshmen: Aken Chani, Jackson Cook, Arianne Dayrit, Madi Dooley, Madalyn Dye, James Ficarro, Mandi Garretson, Madeline Hartlage, Luke Kroeger, Jacob Lann, Lindsey Lavender, Michael Martini, Will Moss, Chris Muller, Judson Murray, Bridget Orr, Cuinn Owens, Khushi Patel, Rory White.

Continued on next page

## CLASS OF 2017 DISPERSING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The Pope John Paul II High School seniors who graduated this year will be heading off to the next phase of their lives in the fall at colleges and universities across the country. Members of the Class of 2017 were accepted in 178 schools and will be enrolling in 71. Here is the list of schools where JPII seniors were accepted. The schools in bold are the ones where students have enrolled.

Allegheny College, **Appalachian State University**, Arizona State University, **Auburn University**, **Austin Peay State University**, **Ave Maria University**, Baldwin Wallace University, Ball State University, Bard College, **Baylor University**, **Bellarmine University**, Belmont Abbey College, **Belmont University**, Berry College, Birmingham Southern College, Blinn College, Boston College, Boston University, Bowling Green State University, Butler University, California College of the Arts (San Francisco), Calvin College, Case Western Reserve University, Centre College, **Christian Brothers University**, Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, College of St. Scholastica, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Converse College, Davidson College, Denison University, Drake University, Drexel University, **Duquesne University**.

East Mississippi Community College, **East Tennessee State University**, **Eastern University**, Eckerd College, **Elon University**, **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Daytona Beach**, Emory & Henry College, **Emory University**, Fashion Institute of Technology, Florida Southern College, Florida State University, Franciscan University of Steubenville, **Furman University**, **Georgia Institute of Technology**, Goucher College, Hanover College, Hendrix College, **High Point University**, Hofstra University, **Independence Community College**, **Indiana University at Bloomington**, Kennesaw State University, Kent State University, **Kenyon College**, Lake Forest College, Lincoln Memorial University, Lipscomb University, Louisiana State University, **Loyola Marymount University**, Loyola University Chicago, Loyola University Maryland, Loyola University New Orleans.

Marquette University, Maryland Institute College of Art, Marymount University, **Maryville College**, Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, **Middle Tennessee State University**, Millsaps College, **Mississippi State University**, Molloy College, Montana State University at Bozeman, Morehead State University, Mount Carmel College of Nursing, Mount St. Joseph University, **Murray State University**, **New College of Florida**, **Northeastern University**, Northern Kentucky University, **Oglethorpe University**, Ohio Northern University,

Otterbein University, Pace University in New York City, Pellissippi State Technical Community College, Pennsylvania State University, Pepperdine University, Pitzer College, **Pontifical College Josephinum**, Pratt Institute, Purdue University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, **Rhodes College**, **Rice University**, Rollins College, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Saint Leo University, **Saint Louis University**, **Saint Mary's College**, **Samford University**, Savannah College of Art and Design, **School of the Art Institute of Chicago**, **School of Visual Arts**, Seton Hall University, **Sewanee: The University of the South**, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Southern Methodist University, **Spring Hill College**, St. Lawrence University, Stony Brook University, **Tennessee Technological University**, Texas Christian University, The Catholic University of America, The College of Saint Rose, The College of Wooster, The George Washington University, **The New School – All Divisions**, The Ohio State University, **The University of Alabama**, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, **The University of Alabama in Huntsville**, **The University of Memphis**, **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, The University of Tampa, Thomas More College, Trine University, **Trinity University**, **Truman State University**, **Tulane University**.

University of Buffalo The State University of New York, **University College Maastricht**, **University of Arkansas**, **University of California-Davis**, University of California-Santa Barbara, University of Central Florida, **University of Cincinnati**, **University of Colorado at Boulder**, **University of Dayton**, University of Delaware, **University of Denver**, University of Evansville, University of Illinois at Chicago, **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, University of Indianapolis, University of Kentucky, **University of Louisville**, University of Mary Washington, **University of Miami**, University of Michigan, **University of Mississippi**, University of Missouri Columbia, University of North Alabama, University of North Carolina at Asheville, University of Redlands, University of Rhode Island, **University of South Carolina**, University of South Florida-Tampa, **University of Tennessee-Chattanooga**, **University of Tennessee-Knoxville**, **Vanderbilt University**, **Volunteer State Community College**, Wake Forest University, Warren Wilson College, **Washington University in St. Louis**, **West Virginia University**, **Western Kentucky University**, **Westminster Choir College**, **Wheaton College Illinois**, **Wichita State University**, **Wofford College**, Write State University, **Xavier University**.

### STUDENTS EARN SPOT ON SPRING HONOR ROLL

Continued from previous page  
Faculty List – A's in All But One Class

Seniors: Kieran Altenbern, Natalie Boone, Macey Crow, Jacqueline Dolan, Jake Fischer, Angelina Hare, Ashley Hayes, Mason Hickman, Emma Horton, David Kritikos, Greta Little, Morgan Locke, Claire Mertens, Jack Merwin, Allie Page, Trace Tignor.

Juniors: Elena Baker, Kellen Barham, Catherine Bender, William Pacwa, Abby Solarz.

Sophomores: Darius Kindle, Ian Kolber, Devon LeCave, Ali McCarthy, Eva Nsengiyumva, Lilly Parker, Hanna Tan, Luke Wiley.

Freshmen: Megan Davis, Sean Kerzel, Mia Roettger, Stephen Smart, Jady Tarver.

## TATE SCHOLARS DINNER AND FOOTBALL SKILLS CAMP RETURNS TO JPII

For the second year, Golden Tate, Class of 2007, returned to Pope John Paul II High School to host the Golden Tate Scholars Dinner and the Golden Tate Football Skills Camp June 2 and 3.

“This is one of my favorite weekends,” he said during the dinner. “It’s truly an honor to be here.”

Golden who starred on the athletic fields of JPII before going on to success as a wide receiver at the University of Notre Dame and the National Football League, said of JPII, “It’s an amazing place. Looking back, I really appreciate everything the school offers.”

Golden brought along several of his teammates from the Detroit Lions to participate in the camp, including running back Ameer Abdullah, who also was the guest speaker at the dinner.

“If you believe in yourself ... good things will happen,” Ameer told the crowd at the dinner, which included JPII’s football, dance and cheer teams. Going into his senior year of high school and considered small in stature, he had only one scholarship offer, he said. Rather than be discouraged, his father urged him to keep driving to reach his dreams. “All you can do is maximize what you have,” Ameer said. He ended up signing with the University of Nebraska and finishing his career as one of the top running backs in the storied program’s long history.



Ameer Abdullah, left, and Golden Tate answer questions during the second annual Golden Tate Scholars Dinner on Friday, June 2. Ameer was the guest speaker at the event. He and Golden are teammates on the Detroit Lions in the National Football League.

Also in the spotlight at the dinner were this year’s Tate Scholars, student athletes selected for emulating the positive traits of Golden, including strong character, excellence in the classroom, and community involvement. The Tate Scholars, all rising sophomores, this year are: Alyssa Staggs, daughter of Ronald and Barbara Staggs, volleyball and softball; Ashley Malone, daughter of Valarie Malone and Will Malone, basketball; Brendan Keaton, son of Matthew and Marquenta Keaton, football; and John Martinez, son of John Martinez and Shauna Jett, football.

The dinner is held to raise funds for the JPII’s need-based financial aid program. Sponsors this year included: ServPro and the Isaacson family; Miracle Ford and the Galvin family; Tom and Marcia McCarthy; Barber Cabinet and Kevin and Michelle Barber; Doug and Jj Ebelhar; Scott and Lori Gettlefinger; Jon and Rochelle Redding; Smile Solutions and Joe and Kim Fox; and Hughston Clinic Orthopaedics.



Golden Tate takes a selfie with all the campers at the second annual Golden Tate Skills Camp, held Saturday, June 3, at JPII. Tate returned to his alma mater for the camp and the Golden Tate Scholars Dinner on Friday, June 2.



Golden Tate, second from left, poses with Tate Scholars, from left, John Martinez, Ashley Malone, and Brendan Keaton. Not pictured is Alyssa Staggs.

## MR. SABOE NAMED MODEL UN EDUCATOR OF YEAR

Paul Saboe, the advisor for the Model United Nations team at Pope John Paul II High School, has been selected as the Model UN Educator of the Year for 2016-17 by BestDelegate.com, the premier Model UN website.

“Over the past 15 years, Paul has grown the program to be the largest extra-curricular program in the school, inspiring students to participate throughout their four years in high school,” said Natalie Loedon, a fellow history teacher at JPII. “In addition, he began a Model UN conference at JPII, attracting many high schools from around the Middle Tennessee region. The organization, enthusiasm, and fun Paul incorporates into the program is inspiring. He does all of this while teaching students the importance of work ethic and accountability.”

This past academic year, the JPII Model UN team involved 126 students or almost 23 percent of the student body, and competed in four conferences, winning 66 awards.

In September 2016, the team sponsored the fifth annual JPII Model UN Conference for 150 delegates and topped 500 awards as a team by winning 14 awards, including four gavels.

In November, the team attended the 51st annual Arkansas Model UN

Conference and set the record for the most awards won in the over 50-year history of the conference with 36 awards, including 11 gavels and the Best Delegation Plaque for the sixth time in the last eight years.

In February 2017, the team participated in the ninth annual University of Alabama Model UN Conference and won the second most awards among competing schools with nine awards. The team finished the competition season in March at the 10th annual Miami University of Ohio Model UN Conference and won seven awards, the most awards among participating schools in the team’s first time competing in this conference.

This academic year marked the first time that JPII offered a special Model UN Innov8 elective class for sophomores through seniors, enabling those students to experience Model UN simulations and to develop their writing and public speaking skills in the classroom.

Saboe will lead a Model UN and Debating Camp as part of Camp JPII 9 am.-noon Monday through Friday the week of June 26. The camp is open to all area students, ages 11-18. Interested students can register at: <http://jp2hs.org/campus-life/extra-curricular-programs/camp-jpii/>.

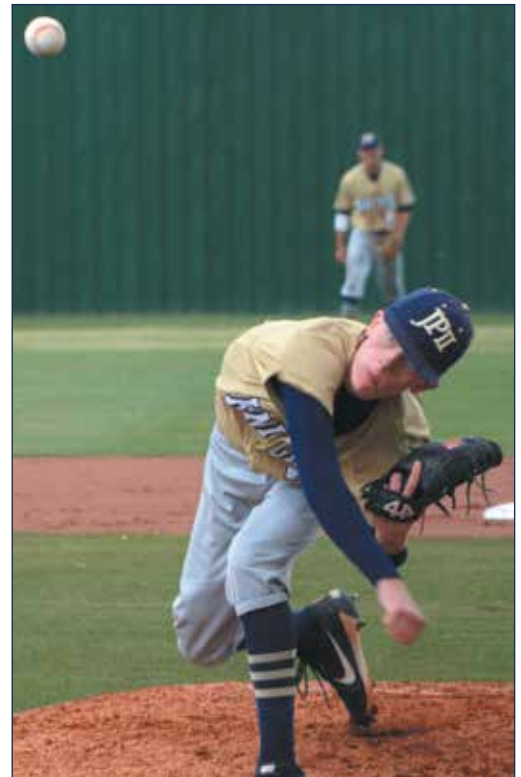
## KNIGHTS COMPETE IN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Pope John Paul II High School baseball team and senior track athlete Chris Bell competed in this year’s Spring Fling state championships.

In the Division II-AA baseball state tournament, the top-ranked Knights dropped both of their games, 7-0 to eventual state champion Brentwood Academy and 1-0 to Briarcrest Christian School of Memphis. It was the third straight year the Knights qualified for the state tournament and the fourth time in school history, but JPII has yet to win a Spring Fling game. JPII finished the season with a 27-11 record.

In the Division II state championship track and field meet held Friday, May 26, at Middle Tennessee State University in Memphis, Bell, the only Knight to qualify for the state meet, finished sixth in the high jump. His performance placed JPII 17th in the team standings.

Senior Mason Hickman prepares to hit against Briarcrest while his teammates watch from the dugout. Sophomore Dominic Pianto, far right photo, delivers a pitch. He threw a complete game, but lost 1-0 to the Saints. The loss eliminated the Knights from the Division II-AA State Tournament and ended their season.



# AFTER KATRINA, MR. PATTON FOUND HIS WAY TO JP II

After witnessing the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina and the long, arduous task of rebuilding, Michael Patton and his wife, Donna, decided to pack up and leave their hometown of New Orleans. Their journey took him to Nashville and eventually to Pope John Paul II High School where he has been teaching since January 2013.

"JP II was always on my radar," said Mr. Patton, who taught at St. Edward School in Nashville for five years before making the move to JP II. When he would accompany St. Edward's eighth graders on visits to JP II he was impressed with the facilities. When he was in school at Archbishop Hannan High School in New Orleans, that school was about the same age as JP II, but was still struggling to add to its facilities, he noted. "JP II had it all pretty much in place," he said.

"These kids had a great opportunity," said Mr. Patton. The school provided students "every advantage that you would need."

By the time Mr. Patton arrived at JP II, he already had more than a decade's experience working in Catholic schools. After he graduated from University of Southern Mississippi his wife was hired at Archbishop Hannan as the band director. The principal also hired Mr. Patton, who is a musician and still plays in a rock band, to teach English and to help his wife with the band.

Being a teacher "had crossed my mind for several reasons," Mr. Patton said. "My wife and I had taught (religious education) classes. I knew it was something I would look into doing."

After two years at his alma mater, "I thought I was done," Mr. Patton said. "I was going to try to do sports marketing or something." Instead he got an offer to be the school librarian at an elementary school. "I could hang out with these books all day," Mr. Patton said, and he would play guitar for the students. He also taught honors English for eighth graders.

After two years, his next stop was Jesuit High School in New Orleans where he taught study skills. But then Katrina hit. "All our family members lost their houses," Mr. Patton said. He and his wife were spared



Michael Patton

because they had sold their house in New Orleans eight months before and had moved to the country. The flooding after the hurricane left their former home under 12 feet of water, he said. "It was a year-long process of gutting relatives' houses," Mr. Patton said of the hurricane's aftermath.

He stayed in New Orleans for two more years, but after his brother, a musician, and his parents moved to Nashville, Mr. Patton and his wife, decided to move from New Orleans as well. He targeted locations on the East Coast and Nashville, and when St. Edward responded to the resume he had sent them, the Pattons packed up for Nashville, he said.

He taught eighth grade English at St. Edward for five years while also pursuing two of his other interests, music and sports. "I was writing for Yahoo Sports. During spring break in 2012, I worked all day, every day writing for Yahoo." His article about New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees was put on the website's front page and received a million hits. With that taste of success, Mr. Patton decided, "I'm going to try this" as a full-time job. But his plans were stymied when Yahoo started making cutbacks. He decided to stick with teaching and landed a spot at JP II teaching English for the second semester of 2013. While at St. Edward, he had taught the children of Deacon Brian Edwards, JP II's director of pastoral care and counseling. "He always talked about what a good place to work it was."

At JP II, Mr. Patton teaches freshman English classes and also puts to use his experience with Yahoo Sports and as a fantasy football podcaster teaching an online media class. Students in the online media class "mostly do blogging, podcasting and videos," Mr. Patton said.

When the students sign up for the class, most don't consider themselves writers. "They sign up because it's fun," Mr. Patton said. But the class might be able to open up avenues for future jobs, he said. As part of the class, the students make promotional videos and through the Innov8 program, he is trying to build a relationship with the Sounds, Nashville's minor league baseball franchise, where students can work as interns in the marketing department. "That kind of experience will help them when they go looking for a job," Mr. Patton said.

During his time at JP II, Mr. Patton has found that the students are open to new experiences and are unafraid to speak or perform in front of others. "They love to discuss things," he said. "The more you can bring discussion into the classroom, the better."

## BROOKS NAMED DIVISION II-AA MR. BASEBALL WINNER

Pope John Paul II High School senior Ben Brooks was named the Division II-AA Mr. Baseball by the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association, recognizing him as the best player in the large private school classification.

Brooks also was named as the Division II-AA East/Middle Region Player of the Year for the second straight season. A four-year starter at shortstop for the Knights, Brooks has signed to play baseball collegiately at the University of Memphis.

His teammate, pitcher Mason Hickman, was one of the three finalists for

the award. Hickman, a senior, has signed to play collegiately at Vanderbilt University.

Brooks finished his senior season with a .418 batting average and a .532 on base percentage. He drove in 13 runs hitting lead-off and scored 39 runs in 38 games.

Brooks helped lead JP II to three straight appearances in the Division II-AA state tournament. This year, the Knights finished the season with a 27-11 record.