By Vince Aquila, Principal

On March 13, our students gathered in our multipurpose room to witness the first appearance of our new pope, Francis I. Our students cheered and applauded the new pope, reflecting the strong spiritual foundation instilled in them through their Catholic education.

We have provided a safer and more secure environment for our faculty, staff and students. Through your generosity we were able to complete the installation of our campus-wide camera security system. We were able to upgrade the visitor entrance to our school to include a front office controlled entry at both doors. I am proud to say that our school is more safe and secure, though there is still more for us to do.

We have been able to reduce the debt on our campus construction over the past year through the generosity of our benefactors and the $2 Million challenge matching gift from the Linda and Mark Smith Family Foundation. Every dollar of debt we retire is a stepping stone to the next phase of the growth of the school. It also means more resources become available for the program requirements of our current student body. We have come far in the past several years but we must continue to meet our financial obligation for our current facility. Your gifts will help us do this.

We have begun the implementation of a new strategic plan that addresses the short-term and long-term needs of our school. This plan challenges our community to retire debt, complete our school facilities, improve and broaden our instructional program, and call for our students to follow Christ. I invite you to be a continuing part of our mission to challenge our students to learn enthusiastically, lead honorably, and live responsibly in our world. Please learn more about the work being done every day at Pope John Paul II Catholic High School by visiting us online at www.jp2falcons.org.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Dear Friends,

Sharing the “goings on” at JPII with you brings us much joy. This newsletter features a special expanded edition on the activities of some of our alumni. Although they are very short “sound bites” of all that they are doing, their stories remind us of the good that has come of their time at JPIICH. The faculty and administration of JPII are committed to our mission to promote a balanced spiritual, academic, artistic and athletic experience for our students. Our faculty nurtures, teaches and encourages our students to think independently, be responsible and take leadership roles. They are encouraged to be the best they can be – to study, to learn, to question and to take on new challenges.

You play and have played a very important part in meeting our mission – because of your financial gifts and support we have been able to hire and retain outstanding, devoted faculty and provide many upgrades and improvements that benefit all of our students. Your gifts directly benefit our students!

We continue to need your financial support to meet the needs of today’s students so they may grow into young people of spiritual promise and achievement. Please make your gift of support today, with your help we can continue to do God’s work.

Connie Gerlach
Director of Advancement

Window of Opportunity ~ Still Open
We hope to have every parish represented.

We would like to dedicate the Sacrament of Holy Orders stained glass window in honor of the priests of the North Alabama parishes. Please consider participating in this unique and lasting opportunity with a gift of $1,000. Your name will appear on a plaque to represent our tribute honor to our priests. If you would like to participate in this special naming opportunity, please contact Connie Gerlach at cgerlach@jp2falcons.org to make your gift or pledge.

CHURCHES CURRENTLY REPRESENTED

Annunciation of the Lord Catholic Church
Good Shepherd Catholic Church
BG (R) John Zierdt & Mrs. Gina Zierdt
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
LTC (R) Mr. Frank Chapuran & Mrs. Carol Chapuran
Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community
Col. Robert Pastorelli & Mrs. Anna Pastorelli
Our Lady, Queen of the Universe
St. Joseph Catholic Church
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Mr. Duane Baltar & Mrs. Cathy Baltar
Mr. Fred Kummer & Mrs. Lizette Kummer
Mr. Duane Mayer & Mrs. Bernadette Mayer
Mr. John Phillips & Mrs. Sue Phillips
St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church
St. Paul Catholic Church
Other Churches
Mr. Howard Stephens & Mrs. Kenzie Stephens

Sacrament of Holy Orders

Annual Giving 2012-2013

Make your gift online at www.jp2falcons.org “Online Giving” or mail this completed pledge card to
JPII Advancement Office
P.O. Box 11868, Huntsville, AL 35814

I want to support the mission of Pope John Paul II Catholic High School.

☐ $100 Gift ☐ $500 Gift ☐ $1,000 Gift
☐ $250 Gift ☐ $750 Gift

☐ Other Amount:


Make my gift: ☐ In Memory ☐ In Honor of
☐ Check

☐ EFT Authorization: I hereby authorize Pope John Paul II Catholic High School to Deduct $ from my checking account on the 20th of each month. Name on Account:

Routing # ☐ Account #

☐ Credit Card #: Exp. Date

Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Signature (Required) Date

THANKYOU!
2000

Dan Wilcox, Class of 2000, is in his last semester in the Master of Fine Arts program at Carnegie Mellon. As part of his current thesis, Dan spent two weeks at the Mars Desert Research Station in the Utah desert. He works in “new media,” using software and electronics to create art, music and performances. Dan has a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Iowa State University (2005) and a master's degree in art & technology from Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden (2007). From 2008 to 2010 he worked at the Ars Electronica Futurelab in Linz, Austria, creating interactive art installations for museums, private companies and other clients. He currently resides in Pittsburg with his wife, Anika.

2002

Greg Hughes, Class of 2002, graduated from Spring Hill College in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in history and theology. He received his master's degree in history at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Greg is currently teaching social studies and religion at Prince of Peace School in Hoover.

2003

Chase Pepper, Class of 2003. Upon graduating summa cum laude from Seton Hall University with degrees in both political science and Catholic studies, Chase spent two years at Temple University as a missionary for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. Thereafter, Chase was accepted to Moreau Seminary at Notre Dame, where he is earning his Masters of Divinity and working through the formation program. God willing, he hopes to be ordained as a Holy Cross priest in April 2015.

2005

Gretchen Bell, Class of 2005, is now a registered nurse. She graduated from the University of Alabama in 2009 and works in the Progressive Surgery Unit at Huntsville Hospital.

Scott Pepper, Class of 2005, graduated from Alabama in 2009 with a degree in communications before deciding to enlist in the Army as a Chinook helicopter mechanic. His first assignment: Katterbach, Germany, childhood hometown of Mr. Gustafson! After deploying to Afghanistan in May 2012, Scott's primary responsibility became that of crew chief, and last fall he was promoted to Sergeant Pepper. He is currently back in Germany with plans to apply to Warrant Officer Flight School.

2007

Ian Flowers, Class of 2007, completed his bachelor's degree at Mississippi State University and is now a second-year Veterinary Medicine student at the Mississippi State College of Veterinary Medicine. He began surgery studies this year.

Anastasia Wengrowski, Class of 2007, received a Presidential Merit scholarship from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., to work on her Ph.D. in electrical and biomedical engineering. She just won her second engineering award and is working on cardiac circuitry with a focus on atrial fibrillation.

Travis Wilson, Class of 2007, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2012 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Starting in July 2012, he attended The Basic School in Quantico, VA to learn how to become a Marine provisional rifle platoon commander over a seven-month period. He is currently attending flight school in Pensacola, FL in order to become a Marine Corps pilot.

2008

Jacob Bell, Class of 2008, attended the University of Alabama and majored in athletic training. He graduated from Alabama in 2012 and is now a certified athletic trainer. He worked with Alabama’s Crimson Tide football team for three years and was part of the 2011 Championship Team training staff. He is currently attending Arizona State university as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for their football team.

Emma Fierro, Class of 2008, graduated summa cum laude from Mississippi State University in 2012 with a major in education and concentration in English and history. While at MSU she was president of the Ladies Social Circle and a member of the Future Educators of America and Phi Kappa Pi education honors fraternity. Upon graduation, Emma was hired as a teacher at JPII – her alma mater. She currently teaches American Literature and British Literature.

Jacob Tygielski, Class of 2008, is a recent Alabama graduate, attaining a bachelor’s degree in economics with a specialization in global business. While in Tuscaloosa, he was a member of the University of Alabama triathlon team and had a national championship appearance in 2010 which led him to an opportunity to compete at the 2011 ITU Triathlon World Championship. Jacob currently resides in Birmingham, working for Motion Industries, Inc. as a market research analyst. He continues triathlon training in hopes of another world championship berth.
2009

Charley Hession, Class of 2009, is a senior at Auburn majoring in biomedical sciences with a minor in information technology. He is planning to pursue a master’s degree in higher education administration. Charley has been involved with Auburn’s University Programs Council since 2011. As a member of that council Charley has served as the Assistant Director of Film, Director of Welcome Week, and as the council’s president for the 2012-13 school year.

Keith Leahy, Class of 2009, is a senior at the University of Alabama in Huntsville studying mechanical engineering. Keith is in a coop rotation with Valspar Corporation in North Birmingham. He has two coop cycles left before he completes his bachelor’s degree.

2010

Christie Alonso, Class of 2010, attends Spring Hill College, where she was recently recognized for her service efforts. She is president of Students for Life, a study strategies tutor and a member of the Spring Hill Awakening Retreat program. She is also a certified Zumba instructor; offering fitness classes free of charge. Christie is majoring in early childhood education and hopes to teach kindergarten in a Catholic school.

Julian Augustin, Class of 2010, entered Auburn University for a double major in electrical engineering and German. He was accepted into Auburn’s coop program and now alternates semesters between studies at Auburn and work with Merecedes Benz in Vance, AL. Julian has served as the vice president of the German National Honor Society at Auburn since fall 2010. In his spare time Julian loves to work on cars and hang out with his friends.

Lauren Beggs, Class of 2010, is a junior at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. She is working on a degree in biology and plans to pursue a career in the medical or research field. Lauren is active in Gamma Sigma Sigma, a service sorority, where she serves as the alumni chair and is the secretary/treasurer of the Catholic Student Organization. In her free time, she likes to run, volunteer, travel and play tennis.

2012

Erin Bouska, Class of 2012, is a Freshman majoring in pre-med/biological sciences at Auburn University. She is a member of the Honors College and made the Dean’s List for the first semester. She has been invited to an honors convocation in April, where she will be recognized for her accomplishments by the College of Science and Mathematics. As a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority she works with the charity Reading is Fundamental to read regularly to preschoolers. Erin is also a greeter for men’s basketball and a faithful fan of Auburn football.

Ashley A. Whitley, Class of 2012, is currently attending the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She is studying Biomedical Engineering.

Fritz Zimmerman, Class of 2012, received a four-year, full tuition Naval ROTC scholarship at Penn State. He is currently majoring in bioengineering. Fritz is looking forward to his 5+ years of active duty and hopes to become a SEAL specializing in combat diving. He is special events coordinator for the boxing team, with his first fight in March at West Point.

Lauren Gilmore, Class of 2010, has gained early acceptance into the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn and will begin the doctoral program in the fall of 2013, as a senior. She is active in the Delta Zeta sorority and numerous organizations on campus. She traveled to Ecuador and Nicaragua as part of the Alternative Student Breaks program.

Adam Hoekenschneider, Class of 2010, is currently a junior at the University of North Alabama majoring in political science. He is on the Dean’s List and a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta and Pi Sigma Alpha honor societies. Adam currently holds offices as treasurer of the InterFraternity Council, treasurer of Eta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity, and is a member of the LaGrange Society as one of UNA’s official ambassadors. He works at Alabama Outdoors and is an intern at Johnson, Paseur and Medley law firm in Florence, AL.

We want to hear from you! If you have alumni news, please send it to Connie Gerlach: cgerlach@jp2falcons.org or call (256) 430-1760, ext. 150.
**Science Olympiad**

The JPPI Science Olympiad Team traveled to Huntington College on May 16 to compete in the state Science Olympiad. The team placed 6th overall with 3–1st place, 2–3rd place and 2–4th place wins in individual events. The team had been working since early fall to prepare for the competition.

**Courtyard Bricks Arrive!**

The much anticipated and greatly delayed engraved bricks have arrived and are ready to be installed in the JPPI courtyard. They are scheduled to be installed in the next few weeks. If you have a brick or paver, keep an eye out for the date of our unveiling reception. Thank you for your patience as we have had to overcome many obstacles to finally bring this project to completion. The bricks will be a permanent reminder to all of your support for our outstanding new facility.

**Student Art Awards**

Four art students from Pope John Paul II Catholic High School will be honored during Youth Art Month, March 10-April 14, at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Junior Lauren Guilbert’s drypoint engraving “Gossamer” and Junior Ashley Freeman’s drawing “Meaning of Life” will be on display in the YAM Exhibition which features work from art students of all grade levels throughout northern Alabama. Sophomore Gwyneth Jones is a Visual Arts Achievement (VAA) blue ribbon finalist in the 5th congressional district for her linoleum-cut block print “Brother.” Her piece will go to the Alabama Artists Gallery in Montgomery, AL for the state competition. Sophomore Jialin Li was honored with a Congressional Art Competition (CAC) award, an Honorable Mention, in printmaking for her drypoint engraving “Amphitheatrum Flavium.”

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>AL School of Math and Science</td>
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*Low scores are best.

**Technology Grant**

JPPI received a $5,000 grant from the Daniel Foundation of Alabama to be applied to the school’s technology update project. JPPI Grant Coordinator, Judy Manlove, in conjunction with Connie Sieja, Computer Teacher and Technology Administrator at JPPI, developed and submitted the grant proposal.
Dates to Note ...

Some upcoming events are listed below. For details, please visit www.jp2falcons.org.

Spring Musical
April 11–12

Spring Concert
May 6

FABC Golf Tournament
May 10

Graduation
May 24

Connie Gerlach
Director of Advancement
256/430.1760, ext. 150
cgerlach@jp2falcons.org

Online Giving is available:
www.jp2falcons.org/ways-of-giving/