



Greetings from Newman Road

An Electronic Alumni Newsletter for Graduates of Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School in Joplin, Missouri

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Message from the Board of Trustees

On 30 October 2009, the Board of Trustees announced that Laura McDonald was the Head of School. Laura has been with the school for 13 years, in administration for the last three, and served very successfully as Assistant Head of School for the last two years.

Laura believes in the mission of the school and is well qualified to lead TJ. She was central to TJ's recent successful recruiting initiatives and in the development and implementation of TJ's Long-Term Strategic Plan. Laura was recognized as one of the area's leading educators last year as a recipient of the 2009 Golden Apple award for her work teaching middle school science.

According to Board Chairman Debra Humphreys, "The Board of Trustees is placing the school into hands we know, hands we trust, and hands that have successfully demonstrated administrative competence in all significant areas of the School's operation."

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Message from the Head of School

When many of you hear my name, you probably think of your middle school volleyball or basketball coach, your lower school science teacher, or the 22-year-old, Ms. Witek. What comes to your mind is probably not, Head of School. When many of you knew me, I was younger than most of you are right now.

Being asked to become Head of School was unexpected, but a job that I feel confident I can do. Just as many of you have grown up, gotten married, or started your first real job since you were a student at TJ, I too have grown older and wiser since you last walked our halls. I have still been teaching science all these years, but I have also served as an administrator for the last three and have developed a deeper understanding and appreciation for all that TJ is and can become in the future.

I have been at TJ for 13 years now. That is the same number of years that some of you attended TJ if you started in Kindergarten. Just as TJ formed who you are today, working at TJ has formed who I have become as an adult. TJ has been a significant part of my life for the last 13 years, and I wouldn't trade my time here for anything. I hope that you look back fondly on your years at TJ, just as many of us fondly remember each and every one of you.

I invite you to come back to see many of the teachers who remember you well, to share the story of who you are becoming and the path your life is taking. Whether you are still in college, starting your own business, starting a family, or living in another country, we hope that life is taking you exactly where you want to go. We remember the potential we saw in each one of you while you were at TJ, and we know that you can do anything you set your mind to.

Take care,

Laura McDonald

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Alumni Reception

Last December's alumni reception was a success with more than fifty people attending. We are planning another reception to honor the Class of 2005 and the Class of 2000 on Saturday, 26 December 2009. All alumni and guests are welcome to attend. On Saturday morning Bill Carter will coordinate the alumni basketball game. This year Mr. Carter will also oversee our first alumni volleyball game. If you are interested in playing in either of these games please contact Mr. Carter directly at bcarter@tjeffschool.com. More information will be sent in December.

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Class Notes

Katie Riggs Helton (Class of 1999) and husband are the proud parents of Zoe Grace Helton, age four months.



Zoe Grace Helton

Cameron Graham (Class of 2000) is on duty in Basrah, Iraq.

Allie Scott (Class of 2001) is a lawyer in Atlanta, Georgia. Allie and Stephen Roach are planning a wedding in the Summer of 2010.

Doniqua Colbert (Class of 2002) married in Andy Beaugard in June 2009.

Ashley Cox (Class of 2002) is living in Omaha, Nebraska. Ashley and Sage Lassley were married in June 2009.

Monica Noronha (Class 2002) is working with an advertising company in St Louis.

Bekkah Sappington (Class of 2002) has returned from living in the Pacific Northwest and is now in Kansas City, Missouri. She is in graduate school pursuing an MBA. Bekkah and Aaron Lyman will be married on 29 May 2010.

Nathan DePratt (Class of 2005) is attending Pittsburg State University and is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Business Marketing.

Kaitlin Jackson (Class of 2005) is in law school at the University of Michigan. She did an internship this summer in the Public Defender's office in Atlanta working with death penalty cases.

Kate Stuppy (Class of 2005) graduated from Hendrix College in May 2009. She majored in chemistry and molecular biology. She is currently doing lab research in molecular biology in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Haley Daus (Class of 2008) is living and studying in Mexico City. She is continuing her education with the online program at the University of Phoenix where she is majoring in psychology. She is planning to graduate in the spring of 2011. She is also teaching English as a Second Language.

Mike Kemp (Class of 2006) and Cat Conner, both students at BYU Idaho, will be married in mid-December.

Mary McDonald (Class of 2006) spent the summer doing research on “Social and Epistemological Framing in Science Classes.” A report on this project can be found at http://www.grinnell.edu/tv/gno/07_31_2009_3/.

Kasey Jackson (Class of 2007) is spending a semester abroad in Strasbourg, France.

Michael Madden (Class of 2008) was one of fourteen students at the University of Missouri recognized for his “superior leadership skills and . . . extensive involvement in campus activities.” He has a double major in atmospheric sciences and peace studies.

Virginia Geddie (Class of 2009) is studying in Bratislava, Slovakia this term.

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We are well into Year 17 at TJ. Enrollment is at 265, girls tennis as well as volleyball, and soccer seasons are drawing to a close, Mr. Atteberry is searching for just the right play for the Spring of 2010, and the 10th grade have just finished their Congress of Vienna experience.

If you know anyone is not getting this newsletter and they would like to, please send me their email address. Keep in touch. When you are back in the Four States stop by the school. We would all like to see you.

Cheers Carpe diem/

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Show your support today with a gift to the TJ Annual Giving Campaign! Give a gift that will make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children. [Click here to learn how to make a gift.](#)

Want to pass this on? TJ does not have email addresses for all alumni. If you know of a classmate who would be interested in receiving news from the school, please forward this email. To join our mailing list, please email alumninews@tjeffschool.org.

Want to opt out? If you prefer not to receive email messages from TJ, please reply to this email with “unsubscribe” in the subject field.

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