

At the Top

New student became a game changer

Crews and Peel share a similar story about being at the top

Every year, one hard-working student from the senior class is awarded the title of Valedictorian.

For most the honor means increased opportunities and a wide-variety of schools to go to after graduation. It comes with plenty of benefits like scholarships and is the ultimate example of years of hard work being paid off.

This year there are many students with high GPAs, but the one that stands out the most is senior Damon Peel.

Peel has attended three schools over his four years of high school, and because he has had very little time and will only have 14 PHS credits by the time he graduates, he cannot be in the running for class of 2012's Valedictorian.

The rule states that: Only those students who complete exactly eight full semesters overall, at least 28 credits at Paoli High School, and meet the requirements for Academic Honors will be eligible for Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Top Ten Honors (all local honors).

Seventh grade science teacher Amanda Crews, then Collier, knows about this situation first hand.

When Crews was a senior, her family moved from Arizona to Springs Valley where her GPA automatically earned her the title of Valedictorian of that graduating class. Crews bumped everyone down and earned the number one spot.

When Crews moved to the Springs Valley school district there were no rules



Photos by Chelsea Talmage and Jerica Goodpaster
(Left) Crews works with her seventh grade science students on an experiment in the auxiliary gymnasium. (Above) Peel works on an assignment.

or restrictions dictating on who was eligible to become Valedictorian, so she was given the opportunity.

Some people would assume that it would anger the other students, especially if they were relying on being Valedictorian, but Crews was respectful to her new classmates.

"If it was going to cause problems I didn't want to be Valedictorian," said Crews.

Crews even became close friends with some of the students in the running for class of 2000's Valedictorian spot.

Transfer vs. Regular Student

There are two different sides of this situation: the side of the transfer student and the side of the top students at the school the student is then attending.

"Just because someone was number one at their old school doesn't mean that they will be number one at their new one," said guidance counselor Brandon Crowder.

Each school and state has different standards, and those standards can either work to the advantage of the transferring student, or it may not.

In some cases, students may move to a school that offers more challenging classes than he or she is used to. Or it may be the other way around, and the student is used to a more challenging program than their new one.

In Arizona, Crews had been enrolled in classes that were not offered in Springs Valley, and therefore she could not take the more advanced classes she was used to.

Crews had worked extremely hard in her old school and maintained her



grades as well as other academic and extracurricular activities.

At her old school, Crews was in Spanish Club, National Honor Society, volleyball, track and was even a basketball manager. When she moved, she did not have as many opportunities.

"They didn't have NHS (at SV) until two years after I graduated," said Crews. Although some of the extracurricular activities were not available, being Valedictorian gave Crews a lot of opportunities.

She received the Presidential Scholarship, a departmental scholarship, The Hoover Agan Memorial Scholarship, the King Memorial Scholarship and even earned a few grants.

After graduation, Crews attended University of Southern Indiana where she earned her undergraduate degree, and is now working on her Master's Degree at Ball State University.

Peel on the other hand is finishing his schooling early and will be graduating midterm. He plans on coming back in May to walk across the stage with his fellow seniors.

Peel plans on attending school in the fall of 2012 and will be studying business for two years. After that, he will be pursuing other career goals.

Even though Peel may not be able to be Valedictorian, his high GPA will get him noticed by colleges he applies to. There may be a rule standing in the way between Peel and a possible title, but he is not letting it stand between him and a successful future.

By Sam Patton

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?: A look back at the top two spots

1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Valedictorian Melanie Stroud-Trinkle	Salutatorian Darcie Tomasallo	Valedictorian Liz Nofziger	Salutatorian Toby Buchanan	Valedictorian Carrie Wozniak	Salutatorian Tina Warren	Valedictorian Neva Meyer
Valedictorian Elizabeth Beachy	Salutatorian Chad Trinkle	Valedictorian Elizabeth Beachy	Salutatorian Jodi Coomes	Valedictorian Espri Beauregard	Salutatorian Megan Sullivan	Valedictorian Jaelithe Ward
Valedictorian Kirsten Beachy	Valedictorian Jaelithe Ward	Valedictorian Kirsten Beachy	Valedictorian Jaelithe Ward	Valedictorian Kirsten Beachy	Valedictorian Jaelithe Ward	Valedictorian Kirsten Beachy

After graduating from Paoli, Melanie Stroud-Trinkle attended the University of Southern Indiana as a Presidential Scholar and Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management. She graduated in December of 1994. After several years as Assistant Vice President with Old National Bank & Foundation Director with Bloomington Hospital of Orange County (currently IU Health), she is now a stay-at-home mother & Independent Advisor/Unit Manager with Lia Sophia jewelry. Melanie married Todd Trinkle and they live in Madison, Indiana with their three sons: Cooper, Grant and Bryant.

After graduation, Darcie Tomasallo attended Indiana University and earned a B.A. in English. She later attended the University Of Baltimore School Of Law. She is currently an attorney and has been employed by the United States Senate since her graduation from Baltimore. She and her husband Timothy live in Cortland Manor, New York with their son.

Carrie Tomasallo attended Bryn Mawr College and received a B.A. in Chemistry. She then attended Columbia University to earn a Master of Public Health degree and also a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Arizona. She is currently an epidemiologist at the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. She and her husband Ryan live in Madison, WI.

After graduation, Morgan Oberle attended the University of Evansville and received a degree in Biochemistry and Chemistry and a minor in Math. She works as an internal Medicine Physician and lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

After graduating, Elizabeth Beachy went on and graduated from Eastern Mennonite University and also attended and graduated from Regent University. Currently, Elizabeth works with Video and Screen Writing. She is married and lives North of Atlanta, Georgia.

Jaelithe Ward attended Indiana University and earned a BA in Journalism and English. She also attended University of Kentucky and received a M.S. in Library Science. Currently, she is a stay at home mom, but before she worked as a Collection Development Librarian at the Louisville Free Public Library. She and her husband, Matthew, live in Louisville, Kentucky, with the daughter, Claire.

After graduation, Kirsten Beachy took a year off from school, and then attended West Virginia for three years receiving a Masters in Creative Writing. She then also attended Eastern Mennonite University. She currently lives in Harrison, Virginia. Kirsten is married and lives on a duck farm. She also teaches creative writing classes at WVU.

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Valedictorian Shanna Pickens	Salutatorian Jill Lehman	Valedictorian Luke Kimmel	Salutatorian Maggie Pittman	Valedictorian Nola Meyer	Salutatorian Ruth Uyesugi	Valedictorian Morgan Oberle
Valedictorian Jessica Jones	Salutatorian Lauren Oakley	Valedictorian Eddie Uyesugi	Salutatorian Megan Bosley	Valedictorian Miriam Friesen	Salutatorian Ryan Barwe	Valedictorian Lacey Brinegar

After graduating, Shanna attended Illinois Wesleyan University and earned a B.A. in English Literature and minor in Theatre Dance. She graduated on May 6 of 2001. After leaving from Illinois, Shanna went on to graduate from Indiana University in May of 2003, where she received a Master's degree in Library Science. Johnson was an English teacher for several years, and now she is at home raising her three children in Orleans. Shanon and her husband, Aaron just celebrated their 10-year anniversary.

Luke Kimmel attended Hanover College after graduation here at PHS where he majored in Mathematics and minored in Physics. While there, he also was certified for both subjects for secondary education. After graduating from college, he taught high school math for five years. Luke and his wife, Karissa are currently living in Africa, learning the language and culture and hoping to teach and serve the church there. Luke and Karissa have one son, Reese.

After graduation here at PHS, Rose Lumley went on to attend Purdue University. In just two short days (December 18), Rose will be graduating with a B.S. in Mathematical Statistics. Rose currently works at Humana as a part time Actuarial Analyst, but when she graduates, she will become full time. Lumley lives in Lafayette but will move to Louisville after graduation.

Lauren Oakley attended Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology after graduation. She earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 2006. She makes a living as a Civil Engineer and Energy Manager for Crane Army Ammunition activity. She and her husband, Josh, currently reside in Paoli with their newborn son, Eli.

After graduating, Miriam graduated from Bethel College in North Newton Kansas with a B.A. in German and History. She has taught history and German at Topeka West High School for two years, and now she is in her first year of law school at University of Kansas. Her law studies will focus around international and environmental law, and she hopes to use my law degree to get involved with agriculture policy. Miriam lives in Lawrence, Kansas. She and her fiancé C.J. are getting married next June.

After graduation, Ryan Barwe attended Indiana University Southeast, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business with concentrations in accounting and management. He is a Certified Public Accountant and currently works for Jennings Advisory Group, LLC. Ryan currently lives in Sellersburg, Indiana.

Lacey Brinegar is currently attending Indiana State University. She works at the Statesman Newspaper on campus at ISU. After graduating from Indiana State, she hopes to attend graduate school.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Valedictorian Emma Meyer	Salutatorian Martha Lumley	Valedictorian Ashley Peronis	Salutatorian Kelsey Seacat	Valedictorian Rachel Friesen	Salutatorian Rose Lumley	Valedictorian Leah Thill
Valedictorian Clara Sears	Salutatorian Nate Smith	Valedictorian Chelsea Brinegar	Valedictorian Audrey Thill	Salutatorian Jordan Kloss	Valedictorian Dylan Sturgeon	Salutatorian Lacey Brinegar

The 2005 PHS Salutatorian attended the University of Evansville, graduating Summa Cum Laude in May 2009 with a B.S. in Business administration with a Management concentration. While at UE, Martha also studied abroad at Harlaxton College in Grantham, England. After graduating from UE, she attended the top-ranked accounting master's program at the University of Texas at Austin, earning a Master's of Professional Accounting in July 2010. Martha now live and works in Evansville, IN as an Auditor with BKD, LLP, one of the top ten accounting firms in the nation, serving construction and not-for-profit clients, including universities. She has passed the CPA exam and will be a licensed CPA in Fall 2012 after she has met the two year experience requirement.

After graduation, Kelsey Seacat graduated from Indiana State University in May of 2010. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing. She is currently a Group Sales Coordinator at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. She lives in Indianapolis as well. Kelsey is engaged to Michael Cook who also graduated from ISU in 2010.

Rachel Friesen attended Goshen College and graduated this past May with a double major in Art Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies. She is now living and working in Kansas City, Kansas and is a community garden developer with New Roots for Refugees, a program that helps resettled refugees from conflict areas around the world to start their own gardens in Kansas City. Her family has relocated to the Nebraska and Kansas area since she graduated from high school, so she is now living within a few hours of her parents and two of her siblings, Miriam ('04) and Isaiah ('13).

After graduation, Clara Sears attended Goshen College. She will be done with classes at the end of this semester and will graduate in April with a B.A. in Biology and a Minor in Business. After graduation, she plans to continue her education by focusing on Public Health and Epidemiology. She is currently a teaching assistant at Goshen for Upper Level Biology Classes. She and six friends live together in Goshen.

Chelsea Brinegar is currently attending Indiana State University majoring in Public Relations and minoring in Leadership and Civics. Chelsea works on campus as a Nonprofit Program Evaluation Specialist. Chelsea is still dating her high school sweetheart, Donnie Kee.

Audrey Thill is currently a sophomore at Goshen College. Previously, Thill studied Biochemistry, but she has switched to a double major of Sociology and Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies. Audrey works as a Resident Assistant on campus. The high expectations of PHS staff did well to prepare Audrey for college. She credits Scott Page and his College Chemistry class for preparing her for rigorous chemistry courses at college.

Jordan Kloss is currently studying Anthropology and Religious Studies at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Jordan chose Spanish as her minor. She currently works as a cashier at Kroger. The future looks bright for Jordan as she is hopefully going to pursue a Ph.D. and attend graduate school.

V&S Among us:

Jill Taylor - Co-Valedictorian for Perry Central in 1997 • **Tamara Noble** - Valedictorian for Orleans High School in 1986 - BS with Highest Distinction from Bloomington, Indiana University in 1990 • **Rachel Wyatt** - Valedictorian for Brownstown Central High School in 1982 • **Deborah Beck** - Valedictorian for Calvary Christian School, Taylor Mill, Kentucky in 1995 • **Laurie Jo Andry** - Salutatorian for Portland Christian High School in Louisville in 1981 • **Chris Lindley** - Salutatorian for Paoli High School in 1986 • **Adam Stroud** - Salutatorian for West Washington High School in 2005 - Won Outstanding student in Education award for IUS College • **Jackie Bosley** - Salutatorian for Paoli High School in 1977 • **Summer Hudelson** - Valedictorian for Orleans High School in 1998